Local Government Service

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A MESSAGE from the Rt. Hon. THOMAS B. WHITSON, Lord Provost of Edinburgh

LORD PROVOST T. B. WHITSON, C.A. had been a member of the Town Council for 12 years when he was elected Lord Provost in November, 1929. He was then in his sixty-first year. Born in Edinburgh and educated at George Watson's College and Loretto School, he later attended Scots Law and Conveyancing classes at Edinburgh University, became a member of the Society of Accountants in 1893, and was elected to the Council of the Society in 1916. In 1917 he was elected on the Town Council, after an association with Professor Geddes extending over 20 years, in which time the slum property question had engaged their attention. In 1923 he was elected a Bailie and served the full term of years as magistrate. In connection with the controversy anent the Scottish National Library, the new Sheriff Court House, the need for larger City Chambers, and the Government buildings proposed to be erected on the Calton Jail site, he urged that it was inexpedient to deal piecemeal with the housing of Government and Municipal services in the city. He has represented the Town Council on the Edinburgh Merchant Company boards, the University Court, the Leith Dock Commission, and is treasurer of the Zoological Society of Scotland, which he did much to establish. He has taken an active interest in the publication of the city records.

I AM glad to have an opportunity of conveying a message to the members of the National Association of Local Government Officers who, I am delighted to know, are to be in conference at Whitsuntide, when the Edinburgh Corporation will have an opportunity of extending a welcome to the delegates.

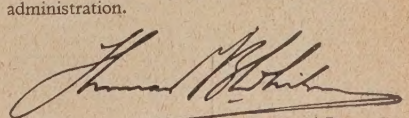
The Corporation naturally feels that this Association is one in which they have a particular interest, since it is so closely concerned with the administration of local government affairs, and I can assure the members that they will be made very welcome on the occasion of their visit to this city.

Local administration has slowly evolved with our civilisation. It is continually growing in volume and complexity and during the last decade it increased rapidly. The Local Government Act of 1929 alone has added very considerably to the duties laid upon Town and County Councils, and for the successful carrying through of these duties it is essential to have an efficient body of employees. In Edinburgh, I am very proud to say, we have such a staff, and I doubt not that many other local authorities can say the same. I would urge, however, upon all members of the Association the need for so equipping themselves for their various posts that the administrative machine will run smoothly and efficiently. In this connection I am glad to note that the Association has under consideration a proposal to take steps to bring it into closer contact with the universities and colleges of the country.

A few years ago the bankers took similar steps to raise the status of their assistants. More recently a Chair of Accountancy was established at Edinburgh University. The individual who chooses local government administration for his life's work should not be behind his other professional brethren, and I would strongly advise the Association to press upon universities the need to provide a course of study in municipal subjects and to set up a diploma in public administration. If this were done it would prove not only an immense benefit individually to the members, but would also appreciably help towards the more efficient administration of local government, and I sincerely trust that the efforts to achieve this end will be successful.

I should like to congratulate the Association on being invited to give evidence before the Departmental Committee recently appointed by the Minister of Health to inquire into and make recommendations on the qualifications, recruitment, training, and promotion of local government officers. The setting up of this departmental committee is certainly evidence of the Government's desire to ensure that local government service be brought to a higher level than heretofore, and the fact that the Association was called upon to open the inquiry by giving its evidence first may be taken as a gratifying recognition of its importance.

I heartily wish the Association, with its high ideals of service, every success and trust that its main activities will continue to be directed towards the attainment of still greater efficiency in civic administration.



Lord Provost.

EDINBURGH—A Self-conscious City

EDINBURGH is a city with a soul; but it does not follow that it wears its heart upon its sleeve. One of the commonest criticisms from its great rival, Glasgow, is that its people are deficient in cordiality. But there is no doubt about its soul. The evidence of the soul is the quality

of self-consciousness; and Edinburgh as a city is very definitely conscious of itself. There is no other city quite like it. There is no other city where the people who live in it are so constantly conscious of being part of, and related to a definite, continuing and long established entity. It is not merely that it has a picturesqueness, that it is built on seven hills, that it has buildings and congregations of buildings which make it notable. It has also a past. It is the Capital of Scotland, and in its traditions and experiences sums up the history of the country.

Edinburgh is not what its citizens of to-day or yesterday make it. Rather, the city seems to gather up and assimilate all who are attracted to it and who settle there. It still contains a place of Royal residence; kingly and queenly traditions have made their mark upon it. The trafficking of the market-places of to-day has not effaced the memories of the glowing pageantry of previous generations. No Edinburgh citizen can walk down the High Street and Canongate without thinking of John Knox and Mary Queen of Scots, of the Jameses, of the Merchant Guilds, of the rallies round the Blue Blanket, of the Porteous Mob, and many less widely known stories from the rich and moving past. Edinburgh has had its romancers in ample measure; and so the figures of an older world, pictured in the pages of Scott, visualised by Robert Louis Stevenson and others, are still, so to speak, alive. Edinburgh people always seem peering into the long narrow closes of the Royal Mile—a city thoroughfare more closely packed with history than any other streets of similar extent in any other city of the world—as if at any moment they might expect some of the figures, which surely still haunt these precincts, to emerge into actual visibility.

There is no affectation in Edinburgh's flavour of past ages. Nobody has tried to stop the tide of progress in order to maintain an artificial air of antiquity. The work of the candlemakers is now carried on at Granton, where is one of the most efficient gas plants of the country, or at Portobello, where is one of the super-electricity stations whose tentacles spread over a great part of Scotland. The old Nor' Loch, which used to fill in the valley alongside Princes Street, and where reputed witches went through the ordeal of water, can still be viewed in the mind's eye; but the lock has been drained, and it now contains one of the greatest railway termini of the country —so concealed that the stranger might be unaware of its existence. There is a sedan chair in the hall of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, which was used not so long ago; and the taxicab men on the books of the magistrates, who issue their licences, are in direct and unbroken succession with the sedan-chair men.

Perhaps one of the reasons why Edinburgh has a living soul is that its growth has meant a continual expansion, not amputation and substitution. The original Edinburgh has been left largely intact. The nucleus which has associations with the romantic past still stands. The ghostly figures of its historical characters can go about unimpeded in their familiar haunts. Edinburgh has expanded in a series of concentric rings. The heart of the city is the old High Street and the Canongate and the Cowgate. The Cowgate no longer is reckoned one of the superior residential districts; but here and there you can go up a long, narrow and dark stairway and emerge on dimly-lighted rooms which still have the ornamental plaster work on their ceilings, or painted panels on the walls, which indicate a period when Scottish nobility had town houses there. This is the area of the tall tenements; and with singular appropriateness the City Chambers, in the very heart and centre of the city, are amongst the tallest of the tenements that survive.

Architecturally, the City Chambers of Edinburgh are unique. They present to the north a great cliff-like elevation, pierced by innumerable windows, their very plainness and solidity, it may be suggested, indicative of the Scottish character. The City Chambers is symbolic of Edinburgh itself. In the course of expansion over many years the architects have not effaced the old buildings, but have skilfully and in perfect harmony grafted additions on to the old. So, in the City Chambers, you can still discover the old Council Room in which deliberated the city fathers when the Town Council was a much smaller body than it is now. In the past few months there has been an extensive re-arrangement, with important additions to the original structure. But nothing has been marred or essentially altered. Nothing has been done to interfere with the original conception of the buildings, which have their main front to the old High Street. They are grouped round a square, in the centre of which is one of the finest pieces of public statuary in Scotland—the group of Alexander and Bucephalus, which some years ago was removed from St. Andrew Square. The former site is now occupied by the Gladstone Memorial group of statuary.

The tall tenements of Edinburgh date from mediaeval times, the period of conflict between England and Scotland, when Edinburgh was a walled city, and when an increase of population meant not expansion beyond the walls, but the building of tenements, always going higher and higher. One block of these high tenements, close to where Mary of Guise had her town house in the Lawnmarket, has accommodated as many as two hundred people in residence there at one time. The old Flodden Wall, built after the Battle of Flodden, when the Scots were apprehensive of English invasion, can still be traced. There are large sections of it still standing. Go into the Scottish National Museum in Chamber Street—to which the Queen seldom fails to make a visit, and which has contents of remarkable interest effectively arranged—and you will see a curiosity in the way of relics of ancient times. There, in one of the rooms, you will find a large section of the Flodden Wall. It was not transported there. It is on its original site. The Museum has been extended to include it; and with commendable inspiration, the authorities decided to preserve it as it stood.

Part of the self-consciousness of Edinburgh attaches to its national institutions. It is in respect of these undoubtedly still the Capital of Scotland. It has its Court of Session, with the old Parliamentary Hall, where the wigged and gowned council parade with clients and law agents. It has, at the east end of Princes Street, its Register House, adjudged by many to be one of the finest examples of architecture of its period. There are kept the records of Scotland, the title deeds, the wills, the inventories and the old registers of the parishes. Practically all the great Scottish insurance companies and banks have their head offices in Edinburgh. The Inland Revenue offices, Customs and Excise offices and other State departments are in close proximity to the Register House—in an area of the city which it is suggested might develop into a Scottish Whitehall. The scheme for erecting a huge block of Government buildings on the Calton Hill has been turned down as a result of popular clamour. The citizens of Edinburgh have been accustomed to the picturesque castellated edifice of the old

(*Continued on page 139*)

MEMORIAL GATEWAY, HOLYROODHOUSE.

ADMINISTRATIVE METHODS

BY SIR ANDREW GRIERSON, LL.D., S.S.C.,

Town Clerk, Edinburgh

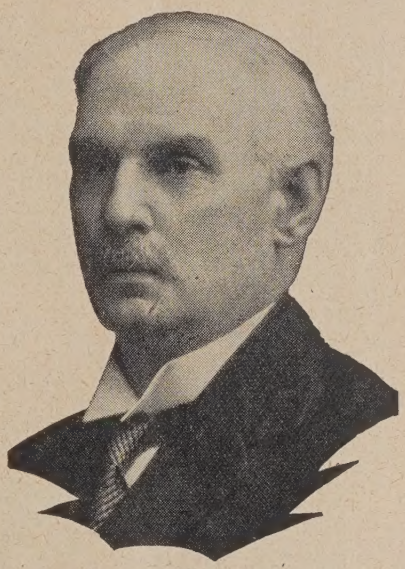
IT has frequently been stated by political observers in recent years that the centre of gravity in government in this country is changing from legislation to administration. By administration in this connection is probably meant the central executive, but there is no doubt that local administration now plays a much more important part in the government of the country than it did. Indeed, the remarkable development of local administration in recent times has given rise to the question, whether in increasing the scope and diversity of the work of local authorities sufficient consideration has been given to the administrative machine. It has not always been the case that legislators who imposed new duties upon local authorities visualised the need for adapting the machine to the performance of the new duties. To some extent this need has been met, so far as Scotland is concerned, by the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929.

Democracy

We are accustomed in this country to administration, both national and local, being conducted on a democratic basis, but in the questioning spirit of the age the methods of democracy are being challenged in all directions. So far as Scotland is concerned local administration owes a great deal to that spirit of civic patriotism which has produced in the past so many capable administrators amongst members of town councils and other local bodies. Whether the methods which have been so successful in the past can safely be relied upon for the future depends to a large extent upon (1) the continuance of the spirit of civic patriotism and (2) proper organisation.

One of the disturbing facts in the situation is that the great development which has taken place in municipal administration may by itself act as a deterrent against the kind of man who is most needed in local administration—that is to say, the man who has some aptitude for administration and has had some business training and experience—coming forward to offer his services. Such a man, in considering whether or not he should stand for election to a local council, might not unreasonably say that he could not afford to give the time or the attention for such exacting and diversified duties as would appear to be required from a member of a modern town council who genuinely desires to take upon his shoulders a fair share of the burden of administration. From this point of view a proper system of municipal organisation is of the utmost importance, because it is only by some such means that it would be possible to assure such a type of municipal candidate that it is quite possible and practicable to reconcile the claims of his own business or employment with the claims which his public duties would make upon him.

Organisation on right lines of the work of a council is essential in the case of any large community. In industry we have heard a great deal recently of rationalisation. Something of that kind is necessary in administration, and recent legislation, viz., the Act of 1929, before referred to, has given the needed opportunity of re-arranging the administrative machine on that basis. The leading feature of that Act, so far as large communities are concerned, is the centralisation in one authority of all the functions of local government. This is very important, particularly in so far as regards financial control—an indispensable requisite. In Edinburgh full advantage has been taken of this opportunity, and a system has been devised which it is confidently expected will, on the one hand, lead to more efficient administration, and, on the other hand, will not increase, but rather lighten, the burden which falls on the shoulders of members of the Council.



Sir ANDREW GRIERSON, LL.D.

Sir Andrew Grierson, LL.D., Town Clerk of Edinburgh, was appointed in May, 1918. He was born in Selkirk in 1869, where he received his legal training in the office of Messrs. Lang and Steedman, following which he entered the service of the Edinburgh Corporation as Clerk of Committees in 1888. After some years in the general office he was transferred to the Law Department, of which he was appointed head in 1898, while in 1906 he was appointed depute Town Clerk following the death of Mr. James Robertson. Sir Andrew was knighted in 1930 and in the same year had conferred on him by Edinburgh University the honorary degree of LL.D.—"a spontaneous gesture of admiration for a notable representative of the great and growing branch of the legal profession which is engaged in administrative and executive duties."

The leading features of the administrative methods adopted in Edinburgh are as follows. Committees have been reduced in number on the principle of combining or grouping together all cognate administrative functions wherever that is possible or practicable. Prior to the commencement of the Act of 1929 the number of standing committees in Edinburgh was thirty-six. That number has now been reduced to ten. As a rule, each member of the Council is expected to serve on at least three of these committees. This arrangement, while it is conducive to saving of time of members, undoubtedly means that members require to specialise in individual branches of municipal administration.

Delegation

The grouping of committees in this way has made it possible to give effect to another important principle in re-arranging the administrative methods in Edinburgh, viz., the principle of delegation from the Council to committees. It has not been considered inconsistent with the Town Council being the supreme directors of the affairs of the city to devolve the conduct of these affairs in their practical application mainly on subordinate bodies in the shape of committees. In making this delegation careful provision has been made so that the Town Council should retain in their own hands direct control over finance and the final say in matters of policy.

A system of this kind, if operated reasonably will, it is hoped, on the one hand retain the democratic principle and, on the other hand, produce as efficient administration as the competing systems (of which a great deal has been heard in recent times) based upon administration by a city manager or a paid city commission.

For such a system to be operated reasonably it is extremely desirable that there should be close co-operation between the members of the local authority and the officials of the local authority. One of the criticisms of the system is based upon the theory that it is calculated to lead to that popular bugbear, bureaucracy. The charge of bureaucracy is one which it is very difficult to meet, because the popular ideas on the subject are extremely hazy. Probably it would conduce to a better understanding of the problem if the respective spheres of the members of a local authority and the officials of that authority could be defined. It would be invidious for an official to attempt such a definition, but it may be permissible to quote a dictum of a well-known writer, John Stuart Mill: "When a popular body knows what it is fit for, and what it is unfit for, it will more and more understand that it is not its business to administer, but that it is its business to see that the administration is done by proper persons and to keep them to their duties." It may not be possible to adhere strictly to such a definition, but the principle laid down affords a useful guide towards a right method of administration.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFFS OF THE EDINBURGH CORPORATION

THEIR RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND PROMOTION

By JOHN D. IMRIE, M.A., B.Com., City Chamberlain.

MR. J. D. IMRIE

Mr. J. D. Imrie, City Chamberlain, entered the service of the Edinburgh Corporation in 1912, was appointed depute City Chamberlain in 1921, and City Chamberlain in 1926, when he was 34 years of age. Educated at Dollar Academy and Edinburgh University, he graduated as Master of Arts with first-class honours in economic science. He is also a Bachelor of Commerce and University Medallist in Political Economy—ordinary and honours class—a Medallist in Organisation of Industry and Commerce, a Fellow and Honoursman of the Society of Municipal Accountants, and Fellow and member of the Examiners' Committee of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants.

ONE of the most noteworthy features of civic development in the post-war decade has been the continuous progress made in the arrangements for the recruitment, training and promotion of the administrative staffs of the Edinburgh Corporation. The inauguration of the movement for a more scientific basis of selection of Corporation staffs and for a subsequent training on definite lines in each municipal department dates from 1920, when the Corporation adopted a scheme for regulating the admission, training, promotion and grading of their clerical, technical and administrative staffs.

The scheme has been amended from time to time to meet changing circumstances. As a result it may now be said that, as regards entrance qualifications, there is, on the one hand, a medical examination by the Corporation's Medical Referee, who takes care that any potential entrant to the municipal service is physically fit; while, on the other hand, there exists a definite stipulation that all entrants must possess a minimum educational qualification. This latter requirement is met by insisting that, in general, entrants must have obtained an educational certificate of the Day School (Higher) standard.

For the central administrative departments, such as the Town Clerk's and the City Chamberlain's, however, educational certificates are required on a higher standard and this also applies to some of the technical departments, such as the City Architect's and the Burgh Engineer's. In addition, the female staff, such as shorthand-typists, must for all departments possess a recognised certificate in shorthand for not less than 100 words per minute, and also the Royal Society of Arts Typewriting Certificate, Advanced Stage, First-Class.

No scheme for securing that reasonable efficiency standards may be attained by the Corporation's administrative staffs would be complete unless some arrangements were made for their training after entry. The Corporation have, accordingly, laid it down that Heads of departments must offer every facility to apprentices to obtain knowledge of the work of the department in which they are engaged. Heads of departments must, in addition, prepare training schemes which shall include attendance at approved classes or other instruction recognised as part of the ordinary curriculum of the profession or vocation in which the employee is engaged. The establishment Committee of the Corporation supervises such schemes.

It is probably worth remarking that all the important departments of the Corporation have now definite provision made for training apprentices. A measure of financial assistance is granted by the Corporation in the case of employees who are attending approved tutorial classes, but the general principle under which the schemes have developed has been that, while the Corporation have been prepared to encourage the development in proficiency of the employees by giving time off to attend necessary classes, financial assistance has only been given in exceptional cases. Further, the building up of Office Libraries containing such technical literature as is necessary for study has been encouraged.

In practice, no difficulties have been met with in the application of the schemes and the progress made has been remarkable. The number of employees qualified professionally has constantly increased and many have been successful either in obtaining promotion in the Corporation's service, or in entering the service of other Local Authorities. The world of business, too, has proved an attraction for others.

In the post-war period a general survey of the duties performed in each department has been made, and this has permitted a grading of the work in such a way that there is now a proper establishment fixed for each department. Each establishment schedule provides for the appropriate number of officers in each of the various fixed grades. For example, Department A may have an allocation of a Staff Officer with, in addition, so many first-, second-, and third-class clerks and the requisite number of typists. Promotion according to the Corporation's regulations is to be regulated definitely by merit rather than by seniority and "efficiency bars" have also been introduced, e.g., it is a condition of promotion beyond the third-class clerical grade that the employee shall possess a minimum educational certificate which is of the standard of the University Entrance Examination.

THE SYNOD HALL: EDINBURGH

MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT IN EDINBURGH

By F. A. FITZPAYNE, M.I.E.E., M.Inst.T., Transport Manager, Edinburgh Corporation Transport Department.

THE delegates who will be attending the Conference of the National Association of Local Government Officers in Edinburgh will have looked forward to the visit with pleasurable anticipation. To those members who have not been in Edinburgh before, the visit will be an enchantment which will linger in the memory and possibly create the desire to return at some future date; to those who have come to the capital often, whether on business or for pleasure, the present occasion will the more firmly establish their love for it; and to those who have not been in Edinburgh since the Conference in 1921, there will be a vivid awakening of memories. Coming out of Princes Street Station, they may observe a more intensive bustle at the west end. They will find the shops more attractive, but what will arrest the attention most of all will be the absence of the old cable car. Since the Corporation obtained complete control of the tramways a progressive policy of service to the travelling public has been pursued.

The cable tramway system was converted to electric traction in twelve months. The electric tramways operated by Leith Corporation were taken over on amalgamation in 1920 and operated by Edinburgh Corporation. These tramways were connected at Pilrig and the first portion of the converted cable system, namely Pilrig to Liberton and Churchhill, was inaugurated in June, 1922, when the first modern electric car to be run by Edinburgh Corporation crossed what was the boundary between Edinburgh and Leith. The tramway system has since continued to expand until there are now over forty-one miles of double track and twenty-three electric car routes running four to five miles in either direction from the centre of the city. Rolling stock now consists of 372 electric cars, and during the past two years a considerable number of new bodies have been built at Shrubhill Depot to take the place of reconstructed cable car bodies which have been in service since the initial conversion of the cable system. In all, eighty-eight new bodies are being built, and a further 188 cars are being modernised. The latest type of car is a considerable improvement on the old standard type, as it has a totally-enclosed body which completely protects passengers against the vagaries of the weather and it also incorporates many other improvements for the comfort of the passengers.

LIMITED UTILITY

While the electric tramway car is one of the safest and most comfortable of vehicles, its usefulness is to a certain extent limited and the advent of the modern bus, with its greater flexibility in operation, was quickly taken advantage of for providing transport facilities to districts of the city which had previously been unprovided for. Twelve buses were purchased in 1919, and the first bus service was inaugurated between Abbeyhill and Ardmillan Terrace in December, 1919. Since then, further bus services have been added as the needs of the community increased, the post-war housing schemes developed in the outskirts of the city being well provided for by this means. There are now sixty-two miles of routes and fourteen motor services providing a quick and comfortable means of transport over widely scattered districts within the city. The last of the original buses will be replaced this year, when twenty new buses on order are delivered and the fleet will then number 158 motor omnibuses and coaches. Besides daily service work on routes the department's buses are also hired to organised parties in connection with picnics during the summer and dances and other indoor social functions during the winter months. A night bus service is also run over two routes, which connects four quarters of the town and the centre of the city, between the hours of 12 o'clock (midnight) and 5 a.m. from Mondays to Fridays.

Edinburgh's attraction for the tourist is also recognised by the Transport Department and modern motor coaches are put into service during the summer months. The motor coach routes include all the outstanding places of historical interest within the city as well as those districts which, by their aesthetic attraction, give pleasure not only to visitors, but to the citizens themselves. Motor coaches are also hired to private parties for sightseeing tours in the city and suburbs.

FARES AND STAGES

It may be interesting to show the average distances on car routes in 1920, as compared with those prevailing at the present time :—

1920	1d. stages ..	—	972 yards
	2d. ,, ..	1 mile	509 ,,
	3d. ,, ..	2 ,,	840 ,,
	4d. ,, ..	4 ,,	434 ,,
1931	1d. stages ..	1 mile	587 yards
	2d. ,, ..	2 ,,	1,607 ,,
	3d. ,, ..	4 ,,	1,174 ,,
	4d. ,, ..	6 ,,	494 ,,
	6d. ,, ..	12 ,,	980 ,,

Apart from the reductions in ordinary fares, there have been special facilities granted to certain sections of the public. For example, reduced return fares are granted to all passengers travelling before 7.45 a.m., and tickets are issued which are available for return at any time on the day of issue at the following rates :—

For 2d. stages ..	3d. return
,, 3d. ,, ..	4d. ,,
,, 4d. ,, ..	5d. ,,

Children under four years of age are allowed to travel free. Children over four and under twelve are charged 1d. for 2d. and 3d. stages; 1½d. for the 4d. and 5d. stages; and 2d. for the 6d. stages. Scholars' permits are also issued to scholars attending any of the schools and colleges in the city. The permits cost 2s. per annum and they entitle scholars to purchase 1d. tickets which are available for any distance on one car or bus or transfer tickets which permit the scholar to travel on two cars or one car and one bus between their residence and the school they are attending. Apprentices attending technical classes are also eligible for these permits which entitle them to purchase 1d. tickets available for any distance on one car or bus. Special sports tokens are also supplied to the Education Department for the use of scholars who are required to attend the sports fields connected with the schools. These tokens allow the scholars to purchase a penny ticket which is available for any distance on a car or bus. Free passes are issued to blind persons and to sailors and soldiers who have lost a leg in the War. Season tickets are also issued to nurses and officials of Corporation Departments who are required to use the cars and buses a great deal in the course of their duties and the rates charged for these ensure a substantial saving in travelling expenses to the departments concerned. A free pass is also issued to every member of the Town Council and the Watching Department have privileges, at a minimum cost, which facilitates the work of that department.

A few years ago the department was called the Edinburgh Corporation Tramways and Motors Department, but this name did not adequately convey the nature of its work. It was therefore decided to call the department the Edinburgh Corporation Transport Department, which is suggestive enough to infer that more than passenger transport is undertaken. As an example of the other kinds of transport work the department performs it may be mentioned that a fleet of thirty-five motor lorries is owned, which, besides being used in connection with the work of the department, are also hired to the other Corporation Departments, such as Electricity, Gas, Water, and City Roads Departments, at rates per hour and per ton-mile. These rates are based on the cost price of the work and should any surplus result from the revenue derived from this source it is used for accelerating the reduction of capital debt. A fleet of forty private motor cars for Corporation use is also operated and maintained by the Transport Department. This fleet is composed of landaulette cars, which are hired out for the use of committees and Chief Officials of the Corporation, and also saloon cars, which are hired to departments of the Corporation for the use of other officials. The rates charged are very small in comparison with the charges for taxi hires, and any surplus in the operation of the fleet is used to liquidate debt and to make further reductions in hiring rates when this can be done with economic safety. Another phase of service undertaken by the department is the Parcels Express Delivery System. The number of employees directly employed by the Transport Department is 2,650.

The total capital expenditure in connection with the Transport Department as a whole, up to the period of the last financial year at May 15, 1930, was £3,587,715. Of this amount £2,297,433 had been repaid, leaving £1,290,282 outstanding. The total revenue produced by the tramways for the last financial year was £744,455, and by the buses £182,659. After deducting ordinary expenditure and capital and other charges there was a net surplus on the tramways of £2,098, and a net surplus on the buses of £505. The average working expenses per mile run was 10.68d. per mile on the tramways and 11.41d. per mile on the buses.

Mr. F. A. FITZPAYNE, M.I.E.E., M.Inst.T.

Transport Manager, Edinburgh Corporation Transport Department, received his technical training at Faraday House, and his practical experience with Messrs. Browett, Lindley and Co., Engineers, Patricroft, Manchester, and Mr. J. B. Mitchell, Borough Electrical and Tramways Engineer, Southend-on-Sea. He was Junior Assistant Engineer, 1900-1901, South London Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd. Assistant Electrical and Tramways Engineer, Great Yarmouth Corporation, 1901-1906. In the latter year he was appointed Superintendent Engineer and then General Manager, Leith Corporation Tramways. Since the amalgamation of the Leith and Edinburgh system in 1920, Mr. Fitzpayne has held his present position as Transport Manager, Edinburgh Corporation.

MUNICIPAL EDINBURGH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS have much to learn from a study of administration in Edinburgh. The article in this issue by Sir Andrew Grierson, the Town Clerk, describes new administrative methods which have been introduced into the City Government, which, we believe, will form a new model. It is a system of rationalisation in City management which has many advantages. Mr. Imrie, the City Chamberlain, in another article, explains the system of training and recruiting which has been adopted in Edinburgh, dealing with one of the most vital problems which engages the attention of N.A.L.G.O.

The Edinburgh City Council consists of the Lord Provost, appointed for three years; ten Bailies, equivalent to Aldermen except that they are elected; the Lord Dean of Guild, and the Convener of Trades, elected annually; the City Treasurer, equivalent to the Chairman of the Finance Committee; ten Police Magistrates who are all Councillors, and forty-seven Councillors. There are numerous sub-committees, and in connection with Education there are special sub-committees and sub-sub-committees.

The parks of the City come under the supervision of the General Purposes Committees, but there are Rangers drawn from the Town Council —thirty-eight of them, one for each park or recreation ground.

The Dean of Guild Court, responsible for building, design and construction is an institution unknown in English municipal life. At the head of it is the Lord Dean of Guild, elected annually, with a committee of seven councillors and seven nominated members, with special qualifications.

The Corporation appoints numerous committees and trusts to which it sends representatives, including Public Libraries Committee, Committee for Leith Harbour and Docks, George Heriot Trust, Heriot-Watt college, College of Art, etc.

Educational Aids

The Corporation has been very closely concerned with Education. The historic University of Edinburgh originated in a grant from the Corporation in 1558. Older than the University is the Royal High School, which existed as a grammar school in the twelfth century, and was taken over by the Town Council in 1517. Trinity Hospital, one of the oldest charitable institutions in the City, was founded in 1460.

Visitors to Edinburgh will be struck by the city's noble and unique position: "No situation," Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, "could be more commanding for the head city of a kingdom, none better chosen for noble prospects."

A few years ago Edinburgh enlarged its area to over 32,000 acres, having a population of 420,000. Few cities in the country enjoy more elbow room; Glasgow, with considerably more than double the population, has an area of 29,500, and Manchester and Liverpool are both smaller with very much greater populations.

The oldest public utility service is the Water Supply. The undertaking of the Edinburgh and District Water Trust was taken over by the Corporation in 1869. A large portion of the supply is spring water from the hills, supplemented by a supply from the Taller, a tributary of the Tweed.

The gas supply of Edinburgh has been municipal since 1888. The chairman of one of the earliest gas companies in Edinburgh was Sir Walter Scott. The chief gas works are now concentrated at Granton, one of the most up-to-date plants in the country, where the manufacture of subsidiaries is carried on on a large and profitable scale, which is followed up by an efficient system of salesmanship. The engineer and manager of the gas works is Mr. Harry H. Gracie, M.Inst. C.E., who has been in the service of the Corporation since 1889, the year following the municipalisation.

The Corporation took over the electricity supplies in 1891. The output has more than doubled in the last few years. The whole supply is now concentrated at a generating station in Portobello, which is one of the central units for Scotland. Mr. Edwin Seddon, M.I.E.E., is the engineer and manager of the Electricity Department and Chairman of the Scottish Centre of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. After serving his apprenticeship in Manchester, Mr. Seddon began as a junior engineer of the Blackpool Corporation Tramways and Electricity Department, passed on to Hanley, thence to Eastbourne. From 1904 to 1912 he was at the West Ham Electricity Department, and in 1924 was appointed Chief Assistant Engineer in Edinburgh, afterwards, in the same year, succeeding to the chief post. The output of the Edinburgh undertaking since it came under Mr. Seddon's energetic management increased by 113 per cent.

The Edinburgh City Council owns various other municipal undertakings. It has carried out a very extensive housing scheme. It manages numerous markets, baths, washhouses, cemeteries and slaughter houses. Under its Public Health Department the Council is responsible for hospitals for infectious diseases, dispensaries and farm colonies. Co-ordinated with the Public Health service is the Public Assistance Committee.

The Synod Hall, where the N.A.L.G.O. Conference meets was formerly the headquarters of the United Free Church of Scotland. It was purchased by the Corporation in 1902 for £30,000.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Organising and Branch Secretaries are requested to send "copy" to reach the Editor by May 20 for the June issue.

News of events which take place later—up to May 21—can be inserted if correspondents will send an intimation to the Editor beforehand.

"Local Government Service,"
3 and 4 Clement's Inn, W.C.2.

CORPORATION OF EDINBURGH

CHIEF OFFICERS

Sir Andrew Grierson, LL.D., S.S.C., Town Clerk.
D. Robertson, LL.B., Depute Town Clerk.
John D. Imrie, M.A., B.Com., City Chamberlain.
Alexander Morrison, C.A., Accountant Auditor.
John Guy, M.D., D.P.H., M.O.H.
Arthur Gofton, F.R.C.V.S., Chief Veterinary Inspector.
Allan W. Ritchie, F.R.San.I., Chief Sanitary Inspector.
E. J. MacRae, A.R.I.B.A., City Architect.
Frank J. Trotter, S.S.C., Chief Education Officer.
Wm. M. Mowat, F.L.D., Chief Public Assistance Officer.
Wm. A. Macartney, A.M.Inst.C.E., Burgh Engineer and Master of Works
F. A. Fitzpayne, M.I.E.E., M.Inst.T., Transport Manager.
Edwin Seddon, M.I.E.E., M.I.Mech.E., Engineer and Manager, Electricity Department.
Roderick Ross, M.V.O., Chief Constable.
George Pringle, Burgh Assessor under Lands Valuation Act and Registration Officer.
Robert Beveridge, Inspector of Lighting and Cleansing.
J. & A. Leslie & Reid, C.E., Engineers, Water Department.
Harry H. Gracie, M.Inst.C.E., Engineer and Manager, Gas Department.
Peter Methven, Firemaster.
D. O. Drummond, Lord Provost's Secretary.
John T. Jeffrey, Superintendent of Parks and Gardens.
Dr. A. Scott Dodd, F.I.C., F.R.S.E., Public Analyst and Official Agricultural Analyst.
F. Sim Leslie, Superintendent of Markets and Slaughterhouses.
Watson Senior, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures.

GLASGOW'S CIVIC WEEK

BETWEEN May 29 and June 6 next, the Corporation of Glasgow will set out to prove the unrivalled advantages of Glasgow as a centre for industry and commerce, to interest the citizens in the amenities of their city, and to demonstrate to visitors the remarkable scope of the Corporation's Departments.

On the industrial side seventy-five firms, representing thirty-eight different types of manufacturing activity, are inviting visitors, either by a scheme of invitation cards or by opening their premises to general inspection. More than 40,000 invitation cards have been sent out to all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad, and it is hoped to impress visitors with the efficiency of Glasgow's industries.

Arrangements have been made to hold a shipping display at Glasgow harbour, to point out the facilities of the port and to draw attention to the question of direct shipment. Three large liners trading regularly to the Clyde, and two of His Majesty's torpedo boat destroyers, which were launched on the river last year, will be available for the inspection of the public. The move to show the possibilities of Glasgow for greater concentration in distribution will be further advanced by the Civic and Empire Exhibition in the Kelvin Hall, at which a large portion of the space will be taken up by the Empire Marketing Board to display Empire goods, and by visits to the Glasgow Corporation Markets, which serve all parts of Scotland, Ireland and the North of England.

General Inspection

All the corporation departments will be open to inspection—some twenty-five branches of civic activity, representing about 200 centres all devoted to securing the welfare of the community. It is hoped to show the citizens something of the administration that they may become advertisers of their city, and to give visitors some idea of the manifold operations which have made Glasgow foremost in progress and development.

All tastes will be catered for by special Civic and Empire Week entertainments. On the musical side, negotiations are in progress to permit of an international band contest, military bands and entertainers in public parks, organ recitals in the University, the Cathedral and Art Galleries, an orchestral concert in the City Hall, special broadcasting programmes, and appropriate shows at the theatres, music halls, and cinemas. Followers of sport will find enjoyment in a great series of tournaments, including five-a-side football, rugby, field events, steeplechase and marathon, competition for ladies and novelty items, each evening at one or other of the city football parks; in a special dirt track fixture at the White City, in which the Wembley Stadium team, the Southern champions, will meet the Glasgow riders, and in rowing regattas on the Clyde, displays by the juvenile organisations, and cricket matches. At Renfrew an aerial display and pageant of aircraft and a gliding event will be organised by the Scottish Flying Club. Excursions by steamers on the Clyde will give a glimpse of the shipbuilding yards and of the framework of the largest vessel in the world which is building at Clydebank.

The railway companies have granted special travelling facilities to Glasgow for Civic and Empire Week. There will be day excursions at single fare from stations within an eighty mile radius of the city, while beyond that it will be possible to secure a return ticket to Glasgow at single fare and a third, by means of a voucher to be had on application to the Manager of Civic and Empire Week, Glasgow. The *Book of Glasgow*, which is being published in connection with Civic and Empire Week and which deals with the city's history, civic administration, industrial and commercial activities, educational facilities, and its contribution to art, music and literature, was on sale at the end of April, price 1s. A programme giving the Civic and Empire Week events in full detail will be on sale at a later date, and also the special Civic and Empire Week Badge.

LONDON PASSENGER TRANSPORT BILL

By the Legal Secretary

BY this Bill, which was introduced on March 12, 1931, it is proposed to provide for the establishment of a Passenger Transport oard for the London traffic area, and for the ansfer to that Board of various transport ndertakings and interests; to make other pro-sions with respect to traffic in that area; and cidental matters. The undertakings to be trans-rred to the Board include any tramway, light ilway or trolley vehicle undertaking owned or orked by the following undertakers, being cal authorities: Croydon, City of London, ast Ham, Ilford, Leyton, Walthamstow, and Vest Ham Corporations, Barking, Bexley, artford, and Erith Urban District Councils, and ertfordshire, London, and Middlesex County ouncils. It will, therefore, be seen that a very onsiderable number of members of the associa-on are affected by the Bill. The provisions elating to the officers and servants of the ndertakings to be transferred to the new Board re novel in several respects, but, on the whole, irly satisfactory, although certain amendments re desirable.

With the object of obtaining the desired nendments, the National Executive Council of ne Association at their meeting on March 21, ave authority for a petition to be presented gainst the Bill and for counsel to be instructed to ppear in support of the petition.

Comparisons

It is interesting to compare certain of the rovisions in the Bill dealing with such questions s the transfer, superannuation and compensation f officers with the provisions in recent Acts such s the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, and the ocal Government Act, 1929, dealing with milar questions. An examination of the clauses hows that the parliamentary draftsman was ooking at certain of these questions from a new ngle.

By Sub-clause (3) of Clause 56 it is provided hat no existing officer or servant transferred hall, without his consent, be by reason of such ransfer in any worse position in respect of the onditions of his service as a whole, as compared vith the conditions of service formerly obtaining vith respect to him, and in determining whether n officer or servant is, or is not, in a worse osition, regard shall be had to all relevant onsiderations, including tenure of office, re-nuneration, gratuities, pension, superannuation, ick fund and any other benefits or allowances, whether obtaining legally or by customary ractice of the authority, company or person nder whom he held his office or employment. This provision is in somewhat wider terms than s usual, and is certainly an improvement on Sub-section (1) of Section 121 of the Act of 1929, which provides that "every transferred officer hall hold office by the same tenure and on the ame conditions as immediately before the ppointed day, and while performing similar luties shall, in respect thereof, receive not less alary or remuneration than the salary or remune-ation to which he would have been entitled if this Act had not been passed," and Sub-section (7) of Section 48 of the Act of 1925, which is very similar to the last-mentioned sub-section, except hat it further provides that every transferred officer shall be entitled to not less pension (if any) han the pension to which he would have been ntitled in respect of his transferred office if the Act had not been passed. These two last sub-ections have been the cause of a great deal of rouble. The Ministry of Health and the officers' ssociations have had differences of opinion in egard to the meaning of Sub-section (7) of Section 48 of the Act of 1925,whilst a High Court ase is pending in regard to the proper inter-retation of Sub-section (1) of Section 121 of the Act of 1929.

Sub-clause (5) of Clause 56 provides that notwithstanding anything in the terms upon which an existing officer or servant was appointed to or holds his office or post (*a*) the Board may abolish his office or post, if in their opinion that office or post is unnecessary, and (*b*) the officer or servant, if required for any reason, *other than his own incapacity or misconduct*, to perform duties which are not analogous to, or are an unreasonable addition to those which, as an officer or servant of the Authority, company or person from whose service he was transferred, he was required to perform, may relinquish his office or post. The reference to any reason other than incapacity or misconduct is unusual. The provision as to analogous duties or an unreasonable addition to duties again raises the question as to the need for some method of determining, before relinquishment takes place, whether or not the duties are analogous, or are an unreasonable addition. This question has been raised on other occasions, particularly in the case of the Bills for the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1926, and the Local Government Act, 1929. In each of these cases the department concerned was definitely opposed to the provision of any such method.

Five Years' Period

By Sub-clause (6) of Clause 56 it is provided that every existing officer or servant *who within five years from the appointed day* and as a consequence of the Act, or of something done by virtue thereof, and not as a result of any incapacity or misconduct, suffers a direct pecuniary loss, is to be entitled to receive from the Board compensation to be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Seventh Schedule. Recent Acts have usually provided that any officer who, at any time within five years after the appointed day, relinquishes office by reason of his being required to perform duties which are not analogous to, or which are an unreasonable addition to, those which he was required to perform immediately before the appointed day, or whose appointment is determined or whose salary is reduced within five years after the appointed day because his services are not required, or his duties are diminished, and not on the ground of misconduct, shall be deemed, unless the contrary is shown, to have suffered a direct pecuniary loss in consequence of the Act. Therefore, during the five-year period, the onus of proving that the loss was not a consequence of the Act was thrown upon the compensating Authority. After the expiration of five years, the onus of proving that the loss was a consequence of the Act was on the officer.

The effect of Sub-clause (6) would be that in every case the loss in respect of which a claim is made must arise within a period of five years from the appointed day. It would appear that the possibility of a direct pecuniary loss occurring as a consequence of the Act after the expiration of five years from the appointed day is somewhat remote, but, nevertheless, an attempt should certainly be made to get the Sub-clause amended by having deleted therefrom the words "within five years from the appointed day."

The expression "direct pecuniary loss" is defined in Sub-clause (6) as including loss of any prospective superannuation or other retiring allowance or gratuity, or of any prospective loss or gratuity to the officer's widow, family or representatives, whether payable pursuant to any legal obligation or in accordance with the customary practice of the authority, company or person from whose service he was transferred. This interpretation of the expression "direct pecuniary loss" ought also to apply to that expression where used in the Seventh Schedule, and amendments are required accordingly. The reference to the loss of any prospective superannuation or other retiring allowance or gratuity is an improvement on the usual form of clause.

The provisions of the Seventh Schedule are in many respects similar to those contained with regard to determination of compensation in other cases, such as the Local Government Act, 1929, and the Road Traffic Act, 1930, but several provisions of importance are omitted; one, in particular, being the provision usually inserted as to the inclusion, for the purpose of compensation, of prior service with any other local authority. An amendment to rectify this omission is very necessary.

A claim for compensation has to be delivered to the Board, and if the claimant is aggrieved by the refusal of the Board to grant compensation, or by the amount of compensation assessed, he may, within three months after the decision of the Board has been communicated to him, require the matter to be referred to arbitration, and the matter shall forthwith be referred by the Board to an arbitrator to be agreed upon, or in default of an agreement to be appointed by the Lord Chancellor on the application of the Board.

The compensation may be paid in the form of an annual or other periodical allowance for life *or for a stated period*, or in the form of a lump sum or partly in the form of an allowance and partly in the form of a lump sum. The reference to payment for a stated period is unusual.

Paragraph (6) of the Seventh Schedule provides that for the purpose of determining whether compensation is payable, and, if so, the amount of compensation, regard shall be had to circumstances similar to those which are taken into account when compensation is assessed under the Local Government Act, 1929, and, in addition, to any payment to be made to the claimant out of any pension, superannuation or other fund upon the termination of his office or employment.

The provision as to treating a period in excess of six months as a year for the calculation of compensation which has been inserted in recent statutes has been omitted. On the other hand, the provision usually inserted as to the suspension of compensation on the compensated officer becoming employed under the Crown or any other local authority has not been included.

Superannuation Rights

Sub-clause (6) of Clause 58, which is designed to preserve the superannuation rights of the transferred officers and servants, provides (*inter alia*) that any person who, being an officer of a local authority, is transferred to and becomes an officer or servant of the Board, and who immediately before the appointed day was a member of any superannuation fund set up by the local authority may, for the period during which he remains an officer or servant of the Board, continue to be a member of that fund, and while he so remains a member, he shall be entitled to the same benefits, rights and privileges, and subject to the same obligations, as he would have been entitled or subject to if the undertaking carried on by the authority under which he held his office had not been transferred to the Board, and during the said period the obligations of the authority under which he held his office in respect of the fund, so far as relates to that member, shall be binding upon the Board.

In the case of officers of authorities which have adopted the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, the position of the officers will require consideration. Questions may arise as to whether the Board would be a local authority for the purposes of the Act of 1922, so that if an officer left the service of the Board and entered the service of a local authority, a transfer value would be payable.

On behalf of the local government officers concerned every effort will be made by the Association to obtain the desired amendment during the passage of the Bill through Parliament.

LLANELLY

The Llanelly R.D.C. decided that their officers should not accept election appointments without special permission, and that when this was given, an officer would forfeit a day's salary. Mr. J. E. N. Davis, Divisional Organising Secretary, at the request of the officials, made a protest at the decision, and the council rescinded their resolution.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS AT MARCH MEETING

THE National Executive Council of the Association of Local Government Officers met on Saturday, March 21, at 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, Mr. A. P. Johnson, the president, being in the chair. There were also present the following members: Messrs. F. Marsden, vice-chairman; W. E. Lloyd, hon. treasurer; G. Parker Morris, hon. solicitor (Eng.); W. G. Auger, J. T. Baker, F. R. Finch, Metropolitan District; F. B. Lunt, J. W. Singleton, J. W. Wilkinson, and F. J. Willett, North-western and North Wales district; J. H. Stone, North-eastern district; W. W. Armitage and A. G. Bolton, Yorkshire district; Dr. A. Wotherspoon, West-midland district; E. W. B. Abbott, South-eastern district; D. L. Griffiths, Southern district; G. Llewellyn, Wales district; A. G. M. Archibald, H. Begg, and R. Walls, Scottish district; G. W. Coster, F. W. Greenhalgh, C. A. W. Roberts, and Sir T. Percival, N.P.L.O.A.; Mrs. G. Franks, L. Wordan, and J. H. Yates. The officers in attendance were Mr. L. Hill, general secretary; Mr. W. F. Fox, chief organising secretary, and Mr. J. Simonds, legal secretary.

Deep sympathy was expressed with Mr. W. H. Whinnerah, a member of the National Executive, in the death of his wife. At the invitation of the President, the members remained standing.

The Council proceeded to consider a motion in the following terms: "That a Special Committee be appointed to review the administrative machinery and the organisation of the staff of the association, and to submit recommendations on the alterations required to meet the increased activities of the association." It was explained by Mr. Parker Morris that this proposal arose only from the enormous growth of the association and its activities and that it was essential to give some relief to the general secretary. The question was referred to a sub-committee consisting of Mr. A. P. Johnson, Mr. W. E. Lloyd and the chairman of each of the Standing Committees.

Arising from the adoption by the N.E.C., at its previous meeting, of a recommendation embodying changes to be adopted by the association when selecting its president, and making provision for the annual election of two vice-presidents, it was agreed that there should be issued by a sub-committee, comprising Mr. E. W. B. Abbott, Mr. G. Parker Morris, and Mr. G. R. Finch, a report to Conference, setting forward a case in support of the Council's recommendations, such report to be endorsed by each member of the Council before it was finally passed for issue.

BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND

THE report of the proceedings of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund management Committee held on March 20, was submitted by Mr. H. S. Newton, chairman. The Financial Statements for 1930 were received and votes of thanks accorded the hon. treasurer for his services.

It was reported that the committee had reconsidered the suggestion that collecting boxes should be available at branch meetings, and, while welcoming the suggestion, it was unable to recommend that the boxes should be provided from the fund. Since the last meeting of the committee thirty-six applications for life membership fees had been received, making the total number of life members since the inception of the fund 5,507. It had been agreed that investments on freehold properties might be made from the B. and O. Fund provided that the parties to the Deed were the trustees of the B. and O. Fund and the borrower; that the fund should have equal representation with the other sections on the proposed Mortgages Committee and that the committee should advise the honorary treasurer from time to time of the approximate sum available for investment.

The attention of the committee had been drawn to a notice of motion to appear on the annual conference agenda in the name of the Dumbartonshire Branch, calling for the elimination of the Purse Session from future conferences; that contributions to the B. and O. Fund should be forwarded to the appropriate official prior to April 15 each year, and thereafter the general secretary should prepare and circulate to representatives a list of contributions and that the chairman of the conference should intimate the winners of the various trophies and arrange for their public presentation. The committee, having considered all the circumstances agreed to recommend the N.E.C. to oppose the motion. Similar arrangements to those obtaining at the 1930 Conference will, it was agreed, be made for the conduct of the Purse Session at the forthcoming conference.

In the future honorary secretaries of Regional Committees are to be asked to dispatch the quarterly report forms in triplicate at least a fortnight before the meetings of their committees, and that the additional copy be retained by the branch hon. secretary. The committee reported receipt of a letter of appreciation for the assistance given to the widow of a late member whose daughter had been awarded a special prize on account of the general excellence of her work. She had succeeded in gaining first place for the term's work among both men and women at her college, the result being made possible only by the splendid help given.

The report of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Management Committee was adopted.

SERVICE CONDITIONS & ORGANISATION

MR. F. MARSDEN submitted a report of the proceedings of the Service Conditions and Organisation Committee, held the previous day. The Committee, in recommending that the hon. solicitor be asked for his opinion as to the legal liability of the Association in connection with the Thrift and Trading sections run by District Committees and Branches, felt that the N.E.C. ought to be advised whether, in the event of persons falling into arrears, the Association was responsible for the debt.

The Association of Directors and Secretaries for Education, in their reply to a memorandum submitted by N.A.L.G.O. relative to the discussions between the two associations on the question of teaching qualifications for positions in the local educational administrative service, stated that the Executive Committee were of the opinion that the list of advertised educational administrative posts hardly bore out the complaint that Local Education Authorities in making the higher appointments attached undue weight to teaching service, to the detriment of their younger officers whose experience have been wholly or mainly administrative. Analysis of the complaint did not, in their opinion, bear out the contention that recruitment of the education branch of the local administrative service was likely to be seriously prejudiced by the action which the local education authorities were taking in the matter. The view of the association was that for all higher executive posts teaching experience was a desirable qualification, but naturally, where such posts carried responsible administrative duties the importance of administrative experience as a qualification should be fully recognised. Further, the association was of the opinion that those officers of the local authority who had to exercise control and supervision over the teaching profession, that is to say, inspectors and executive officers under them, should themselves have a first-hand knowledge of professional work as well as considerable educational qualifications.

The committee agreed to take no further action upon the foregoing reply.

It was resolved to recommend that the Standing Joint Committee accede to the application of the Association of Superintendents of Parks and Botanic Gardens for representation on that body. The report of the Croyde Bay Holiday Camp Sub-Committee covering completion of purchase, terms of reference, camp management, etc., was received and the action taken thereon approved. It was further reported that in accordance with the decision given at the last meeting of the sub-committee there had been arranged an inspection and a valuation of Kilmun Mansion House, Argyllshire, with a view to its purchase as a holiday home but, having considered the report, the committee recommended that no further action be taken in the matter. Enquiries would be continued in respect of properties suitable for holiday homes between Aberystwyth and Rhyl. During the period January 19 to March 7 (seven weeks), three new Branches had been registered. The number of subscribing Branches for 1930 was 468, as compared with 443 for the year 1929. The subscribing membership was 60,983, as compared with 49,040 for the preceding year, an increase of 11,943, and at January 31 the membership reached 62,264, as compared with 50,016 in the preceding year.

Metropolitan Membership

At a meeting in London of the Standing Conference of Joint Councils two resolutions arising from the transfer of public assistance staffs from Boards of Guardians to County and County Borough Councils were considered and the committee understood that the Standing Conference had appointed representatives to meet members of the National Joint Industrial Council for manual workers. In a letter to that committee the Metropolitan District Committee stated that it had considered the peculiar position in London as a result of the existence of the L.C.C. Staff Association, the National Union of County Officers, and the L.C.C. Branch of N.A.L.G.O., and had passed a resolution advising Branches to permit the admission to membership of all established staff other than domestic and artisan staff unless employed in a supervisory capacity, and that provision be made for officers transferred from other Branches. The committee had asked the general secretary to submit to the next meeting a report on the practice of the Branches regarding acceptance into membership of transferred officers, both under the agreement and otherwise.

Arising out of a recommendation, forwarded from the Metropolitan District Committee that the N.E.C. should invite tenders for printing only from those firms on the list of trade-union houses, the committee instructed the general secretary to report as to the difference between the present practice and that recommended by the district committee. A further communication from the same district committee, requesting the N.E.C. to consider further the question of the promotion of a national sports club for the association upon lines submitted by the district committee, with a view to co-ordinating the pursuit of all forms of amateur sport throughout the service, was referred to the Sports Sub-committee for report.

The report of the Service Conditions and Organisation Committee was adopted.

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY

FOR the Law and Parliamentary Committee, Mr. D. L. GRIFFITHS placed the report of its meeting on March 20 before the Council. It was recorded that the Brighton Corporation Bill had been considered. This Bill, which provides that the tramways of the Corporation or any of them may be abandoned or discontinued on a bus service being substituted in their place, did not contain any provision for the compensation of any officers or servants of the Corporation who may, in consequence, suffer a loss of employment or remuneration. Representations had been made by the association to the Corporation that compensation provisions ought to be inserted and the Association's parliamentary agent had submitted to the agent for the Bill a clause relating to compensation, but in each case without successful result. A petition against the Bill would, therefore, be lodged on behalf of the Association's members in the Corporation's Tramway Department. The Middlesex County Council Bill empowered the Council to become the main sewage authority for the western area of the County. The legal secretary reported that it contained no provisions to safeguard the interests of the officers. In this case representation had been made to the Council and at the request of the county solicitor the legal secretary had submitted draft clauses relating to transfer, superannuation and compensation of officers, and these clauses were under consideration by the county solicitor and the agents for the Bill. In the meantime an undertaking had been received from the Council that the officers concerned would in no wise be prejudiced by reserving their opposition to the Second House should it be necessary for them to petition against the Bill. The Oldham Extension Bill which made provision for the inclusion of the Urban District of Chadderton, had been rejected by the House of Lords.

The presentation of a petition had been authorised in the case of the London Passenger Transport Bill, authority in this case being given for counsel to be instructed to appear in support of the petition. Since the last meeting of the committee 119 cases had been dealt with. Of these 35 related to compensation for loss of office or emoluments; 10 conditions of service of transferred officers; 54 superannuation; and 20 relating to general legal questions.

It was reported that orders were being made by the Ministry of Health under section 46 of the 1929 and section 54 of the 1888 Local Government Acts, and that while provisions relating to the transfer and compensation of officers were considered to be satisfactory, in a number of cases amendments were required in order to preserve the rights of the officers to be transferred. As a result of representations made, the Ministry had agreed to insert in all cases where necessary, provisions to preserve the superannuation rights which the transferred officers had either under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, or the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896. The Council was informed of the intention of the Minister of Health to receive a deputation at the House of Commons on March 24 to discuss the situation in regard to the proposed General Superannuation Bill. The Glamorgan Branch wrote urging that in their opinion the Association should make representations with a view to the provision out of the National Exchequer for allocation to superannuation funds of County Councils and County Borough Councils, of a sum equal to the transfer value of an actuarial basis of transferred officers under the Local Government Act, 1929. The Law and Parliamentary Committee was of the opinion that no good purpose would be served thereby, the matter being rather one for the County Councils Association and the Association of Municipal Corporations than for an officers' association, and it was resolved to advise the Branch accordingly. Authority was given to the Scottish District Committee to join with the District Clerks Association in obtaining the opinion of counsel upon a number of questions which had arisen under the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, and Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929.

The following letter of appreciation for legal assistance was read to the committee: "At a meeting of my Executive Committee held last evening, I was able to report the result of the application for legal assistance in . . . case and I am now directed to convey to the National Executive Council the very hearty thanks of the Branch for the sympathetic and generous treatment accorded to the member. The decision was an exceedingly welcome one, and will undoubtedly be of great propaganda value, whilst to our colleague, of course, it is an absolute god-send." At a previous meeting a grant of £50 had been made in this case.

A further case which had come before the committee concerned a local builder who had written to the engineer of an authority in a manner defamatory to the character of the member of the association. The chairman of the Law and Parliamentary Committee had given authority for the association's solicitors to write the person in question demanding an immediate withdrawal of the remarks and a full apology.

On a question of tenure of office, the Ministry of Health had been asked to agree to an amendment of Article 18 of the East Elloe Joint Water Order, which provided for the officers of the Board to be removable at the pleasure of the Board and reported, as a result of the representations made, the Ministry had agreed to an amendment to provide that the officers referred to should hold office on terms to be prescribed by the Board.

The report of the Law and Parliamentary Committee was adopted.

POOR LAW TRANSFERRED OFFICERS

UNDER the report of the Poor Law Transferred Officers' Committee submitted by Sir Tom Percival, it was stated that writs had been issued against the South Shields Corporation on behalf of two officials transferred to the service of the South Shields Public Assistance Committee who had suffered reductions in their ration allowances. In a communication to the Association's solicitors the Town Clerk of South Shields had advanced the view that under Section 119 of the Local Government Act, 1929, the Council by virtue of that Act had the same rights as regards termination of an appointment or alteration of salaries and emoluments as the late Board of Guardians. His committee were aware that under the provisions of the Public Assistance Order the Council must obtain the consent of the Minister of Health before terminating an appointment or reducing the remuneration of a senior poor law officer. Proposals had been submitted to the Minister in the case of the salaries and emoluments of certain transferred officers.

They had for the present postponed the operation of their recommendations in regard to reductions of salaries in the case of the other officers except that they had under the Public Assistance Order fixed a reduced value of the rations of the officers in the Institution. Counsel had advised that proceedings should be taken in the Chancery Division, and such proceedings were being commenced immediately in respect of two of the officers whose cases the corporation were being asked to regard as test cases.

A report had been submitted by the deputation which had visited the Ministry of Health on the Association's behalf on the position under the Superannuation Act, of officers at the Monyhull Colony, Birmingham, the Colony being about to become a mental institution. The deputation was informed that the Minister had been advised that officers who were transferred under the Local Government Act, 1929, and who were contributing under the Local Government and other Officers Superannuation Act, would remain subject to the provisions of the latter, on the Colony becoming certified under the Mental Deficiency Act, and would continue to be subject to the Act of 1922 in any post which they might obtain under any County Council, County Borough Council or Borough Council which had adopted the Act.

The deputation further reported that it had discussed at the Ministry the case of the officers of Prudhoe Hall Institution, who had been transferred before March 31, 1930, and, consequently, were not transferred officers under the Local Government Act, 1929. These officers, on transfer, became subject to the provisions of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Acts, with the result that their superannuation would be calculated on their average salary and emoluments for the last ten years' service instead of for the last five.

It had been reported to the committee that the Carmarthenshire C.C. had sent a deputation to the Ministry of Health with the object of obtaining sanction to the appointment of the three inexperienced persons as Relieving Officers, and it was understood that the deputation was informed that the Minister's sanction would not be given.

On the same day, information was received by the Association that the three Assistant Relieving Officers who had been employed in the Llanelly Area for over four years had received notice of dismissal to take effect on March 31. This information was forwarded on to the Ministry immediately, and at the same time it was submitted that the appointment of one of the three officers mentioned who had been acting as Relieving Officer for twelve months could not be terminated without the consent of the Minister.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

The case of an officer who resigned an appointment under another authority and upon submitting himself for medical examination in connection with the new post under the Middlesex C.C., failed to pass, had been the subject of correspondence between the County Solicitor and the Association. It had been suggested by the County Council to the member concerned that if his health improved after a lapse of two or three years he could, if he then passed a medical examination, come under the Superannuation Scheme, and his service in the meantime would count as non-contributory service.

Representation, it was stated, had been made on the Association's behalf to the Registrar-General that a scale of payment should be prepared for enumerators in Institutions in connection with the 1931 census. The reply to such representation had been that it had not been found possible, in making arrangements for the enumeration of institutions, to depart from the decision arrived at previously, that was, to exclude from any arrangements for ex-gratia remuneration those institutions under the control of any public authority, central or local. The Registrar-General pointed out that the duty of making the return was statutory and where the duty fell upon an individual as a servant of a public authority, there appeared to be no justification for providing remuneration. The deputation which had attended at the Ministry of Health the previous day on the question of gratuities for registration officers had discussed with the officials of the Department the decision of the Registrar-General.

The committee had resolved that the attention of local authorities should be called to the fact that they could remunerate their officers for work performed by them in connection with the census.

A circular had been sent to Branch Secretaries and Education Correspondents asking them to bring the Sister Tutor scholarship to the notice of nurses who were members of the Association. It had been decided to invite contributions to the cost of the scholarship which amounted to £150 as had been done in previous years. The National Executive Council had decided to make up any deficit there might be after such contributions had been received. This year the examination for the scholarship would be held on May 9.

POOR LAW TRANSFERRED OFFICERS

(CONTINUED)

It was reported to the Committee that the Finance Committee of the Lanarkshire County Council had recommended reductions of 10 per cent. on all wages and salaries above 48s., and to stop all scale increments. The majority of the officers concerned were transferred officers under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929, which provided that such officers while performing similar duties should receive a salary or remuneration not less than they would have received or been entitled to if the Act had not been passed.

The committee had asked the Scottish District Committee to include the Lanarkshire question in the case it was proposed to submit for the opinion of Counsel on other matters.

It was agreed to ask the National Executive Council to give authority for legal action to be taken against the Lanarkshire County Council, if necessary.

The report of the Poor Law Transferred Officers' Committee was adopted.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

THERE was submitted by MR. F. J. WILLETT the report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee meeting held the previous day. The Establishment and General Purposes Sub-Committee had had under consideration a questionnaire from the League of Nations Calendar Reform Committee relative to the proposed reform of the Gregorian Calendar to provide (*a*) a year consisting of thirteen months of twenty-eight days; or (*b*) a year consisting of twelve months, divided into four quarters, each consisting of ninety-one days. The sub-committee had recommended that the necessity for any change in the present calendar could not be appreciated, but the Committee had referred the matter back to the sub-committee for further consideration and report. Upon the instruction of the main committee the sub-committee had caused a report to be submitted by the General Secretary embodying a draft scheme of loans for educational facilities. Certain amendments were made and the revised scheme would be considered at the committee's next meeting. The sub-committee had further reported upon the method of appointment, and the qualification of junior members of headquarters staff. In each case the school leaving certificate or matriculation and school report was insisted upon.

Applications for new office accommodation from the Divisional Organising Secretaries of the North Western and North Wales, North Eastern and Yorkshire and the East Midlands, West Midlands and South Wales Districts, were submitted and it was resolved: "That the matter be referred to the members of the National Executive Council in the districts concerned, with power to act."

PROVIDENT SOCIETY

MR. W. W. ARMITAGE submitted the report of the proceedings of the Provident Society Committee of Management, held on Friday, March 20, in which was recorded the decision of the Committee to recommend the N.E.C. to approve the proposals submitted by Logomia, Ltd., for the amalgamation of the two life funds. Details of the proposals which were adopted by the N.E.C. are given on another page. The quinquennial valuation report of the Society's Actuary was considered and it was decided that a bonus of £2 per cent. per annum be declared on all existing life policies, and that every policy-holder who is prepared to surrender his policy and accepts a new one from Logomia, Ltd., as recommended by the committee, shall have his policy credited with an appropriate proportion of the balance of the surplus on the Life Fund in addition.

It was agreed to recommend the N.E.C. to approve these proposals. The statement of receipts and payments for the period January 1 to March 1, compared with similar figures for the corresponding period of last year was submitted. Total receipts for the prescribed period were £8,553 15s. 11d., being an increase of £1,389 1s. 10d. Payments were £6,874 12s. 7d., against £7,270 16s. 9d., a decrease of £496 4s. 2d. Deposits had risen from £1,502 15s. 0d. to £2,072 19s. 2d.; Common Sick Fund from £2,573 8s. 10d. to £2,903 18s. 11d.. Increases were also shown in Death Benefit, Life Assurance, and Endowments. Common Sick Fund claims had risen from £471 15s. 11d. to £915 3s. 1d.

The report of the Provident Society Committee of Management was approved.

EDUCATION

THE Education Committee, the report of which was submitted by Mr. E. W. B. Abbott, recorded the names of twenty-one applicants for exemption from the association's preliminary examination, only one of which had not been granted. The Education General Sub-committee had given further consideration to the question of adding subjects to the N.A.L.G.O. Final Examination to satisfy the requirements of the clerical officers in the Public Assistance Service. Having regard to the fact that the Poor Law Examinations Board at present examined only relieving officers and institutional officers in the Public Assistance Service, the Education Committee recommended that the two subjects, Public Assistance—the administration of the Poor Laws and Public Assistance—the law connected with the relief of the poor should be added to the syllabus.

Reference was made to the visits paid by the chairman, Mr. Abbott, and the general secretary, Mr. Hill, to Edinburgh and Glasgow, as a result of which inquiries were being made as to the possibility of instituting a degree or certificate in public administration. The chairman reported that whilst in Scotland, he had discussed the programme for the Scottish Summer School and informed the committee of the provisional arrangements made. These were approved. The chairman reported on the arrangements for the English Summer School. The committee had discussed the general arrangements for the school and agreed to Sir Arthur Robinson being invited to preside at the discussion on the selected essay in the prize competition which he has instituted. The decision of the Education General Sub-committee to invite the Minister of Health, or failing him the President of the Board of Education or the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Health, to open the School, together with decisions as to questions of procedure, was approved. The sub-committee gave the following summary of the final results in the N.A.L.G.O. examinations held in January, 1931:

	Passed.	*Failed.*	*Referred in certain subjects.*	*Total.*
Preliminary	18	50	12	80
Intermediate	7	3	6	16
Final	5	—	—	5
				101

Mr. Frederick Brown, one of the examiners in Statistics, had intimated that the field covered by the syllabus appeared to be too wide for the students to study adequately in the time available and suggested that the field might be slightly narrowed. The sub-committee had given instructions for suitable questions to be set at the next examination along the lines of Mr. Brown's suggestion and asked that this should be brought to the attention of the Tutor in the Correspondence Course for Statistics.

The committee reported that on March 13, Education Correspondent had been appointed in 163 Branches. The secretary announced the receipt of a donation of £5 5s. from the Salford Branch towards the fund for the Sister-tutor Scholarship.

The report of the Education Committee was adopted.

LIVERPOOL MUNICIPAL GUILD

IN connection with our paragraph on page 100 of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE for April, in which we referred to the recent action, Messrs. Ariel Gray & Co., Ltd., *v.* Members of the Executive Committee of the Liverpool Municipal Officers' Guild, Mr. L. H. Keay, chairman of the Guild Executive Committee, writes stating that throughout a period of considerable anxiety it has been a great satisfaction for him to have the sympathy of members of the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. and other similar bodies.

The Liverpool Municipal Officers' Guild, which is still in a flourishing condition, was not founded for trading purposes, Mr. Keay states, but for advancing social work among all employees of local authorities on Mersey side. The Guild has never, at any time, entered into trading activities, but in connection with other similar bodies, its members have obtained discounts from a number of local tradesmen when for goods supplied by them.

Mr. Keay adds that one of the first letters of congratulation which he received on the termination of the action in favour of the Guild was from the local secretary of N.A.L.G.O.

RETIREMENTS

At the last meeting of the National Executive Council, reported elsewhere in this issue, the delegates took leave of Mr. F. B. Lunt, Town Clerk's Department, Liverpool, whose impending voluntary retirement from the service was announced. Mr. Lunt has been a member of the N.A.L.G.O. from its inception, and is one of the oldest members of the N.E.C.

Appreciative reference to Mr. Lunt's work was made by Mr. F. Marsden, and by Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, and Mr. C. A. W. Roberts.

Mr. Lunt, returning thanks, recalled that he was associated with the formation of the first Guild in this country. A resolution expressing thanks for Mr. Lunt's great service to N.A.L.G.O. was passed at a recent meeting of the North-West District Committee.

The voluntary retirement, under the Superannuation Scheme, of Mr. Archibald Sparke, F.R.S.L., F.L.A., Chief Librarian of Bolton, is announced, and Bolton will shortly be losing one of its most esteemed officials. He has been head of the Corporation system of Libraries for the past twenty-seven years, and is a well-known figure in the library world, being a member of the Library Association Council. Formerly he was librarian of Kidderminster, Carlisle, and Bury.

An interesting record of half a century in the municipal service of Reading terminated when Mr. Henry James Hobbs, retired from the position of Rating and Valuation Officer. Mr. Hobbs, who is sixty-five years of age, entered into the Local Government service in 1880. He was this year elected president of the local branch of N.A.L.G.O. The branch recently made a presentation to Mr. Hobbs of a gentleman's fitted wardrobe and a clock. Few have done more to advance the interests of public officials in Reading than Mr. Hobbs, and his colleagues part from him with greatest reluctance.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1931

CONSIDERED AMENDMENTS TO NOTICES OF MOTION

AGENDA ITEM No. 6

Paragraph (a) (1) (a)

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Metropolitan District Committee.

That the words "*the most prominent*" in the second and third lines of the Motion shown under item 6 (a) (1) (a), be deleted.

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the Yorkshire District Committee, Halifax and District Branch and West Riding County Officers' Association.

Delete the words "*the Local Government Service who are members of*" from lines three and four.

Amendment No. 3 submitted by the Sheffield Branch.

"That it be the general policy of the Association to have a change of president each year, and that only members of the Local Government Service who are prominent members of N.A.L.G.O. should be invited to accept the office."

Amendment No. 4 submitted by the Scottish District Committee.

That in (1) (a) all the words after "*each year*" be deleted.

Paragraph (a) (1) (b)

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Metropolitan District Committee.

That the words "*all of whom shall be ex-officio members of the National Executive Council*" in the third and fourth lines of the Motion shown under item 6 (a) (1) (b), be deleted, and that the following words be substituted therefor, viz. :—"*The Vice-President securing the highest number of votes shall be designated President-elect for the succeeding year, and the President and President-elect shall be ex-officio members of the National Executive Council.*"

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the West Riding County Officers' Association.

(b) to read : "*That to ensure continuity of thought and a working knowledge of the Association, there shall be a President and two Vice-presidents of whom the President shall be an ex-officio member of the National Executive Council.*"

Amendment No. 3 submitted by the West Midlands District Committee.

Amend (1) (b) in line three substitute "*one*" for "*two*" and the paragraph amended accordingly.

Paragraph (a) (1) (d)

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Metropolitan District Committee.

That the following words be added at the end of the Motion shown under 6 (a) (1) (d), viz. : "*In accordance with existing practice.*"

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the West Midlands District Committee.

Amend (1) (d), in line one substitute "*one*" for "*two*" and the paragraph amended accordingly.

Paragraph (a) (1) (e)

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Metropolitan District Committee.

That the words "*the normal procedure shall be to elect one of the Vice-presidents as President*" in the first, second and third lines of the Motion shown under item 6 (a) (1) (e), be deleted, and that the following words be substituted therefor, viz. : "*The Vice-president who received the highest number of votes at the previous Conference shall be elected President.*"

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the West Riding County Officers' Association.

(e) to read : "*That at succeeding Conferences the procedure shall be to elect one of the Vice-presidents as President.*"

Amendment No. 3 submitted by the West Midlands District Committee.

Amend (1) (e). Delete the whole paragraph.

Amendment No. 4 submitted by the Scottish District Committee.

That in (1) (e) the following words be added at the end of the clause : "*Failing acceptance of election by the Vice-presidents, the most prominent members of the Local Government Service who are members of N.A.L.G.O. should be invited to accept the office.*"

Paragraph No. (a) (2)

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Metropolitan District Committee.

That the following words be added at the end of the Amendment of Rule shown under item 6 (a) (2), Rule 19 (2) (ii), viz. : "*and add the following words, viz. : 'The Vice-president securing the highest number of votes to be designated President-elect for the succeeding year.'*"

That the amendment of Rule shown under item 6 (a) (2) Rule 19 (b), be deleted, and the following substituted therefor, viz. : "*Rule 19 (b).—Leave out the whole rule and insert the following new rule : 'Nominations for the Honorary Officers of the Association may only be submitted by the Council and/or a District Committee, and all Honorary Officers shall be elected on such nominations by the Annual Conference'.*"

That the words "*the Vice-presidents*" in the second and third lines of the Amendment of Rule shown under item 6 (a) (2) Rule 33 (a), be deleted, and that the following words be substituted therefor, viz : "*The President-elect.*"

That the following be added at the end of the Amendment of Rule shown under item 6 (a) (2) Rule 33, viz. : "*In the event of the President-elect being unable by reason of any circumstance to accept the Presidency, the then President and the Immediate Past President shall continue in office until the next succeeding Conference.*"

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the West Midlands District Committee.

Amend (2) To embody the principle that only one Vice-president be appointed instead of two.

That the proposed rule 19 (b) be deleted and the present Rule 19 (b) continue in force.

Amendment No. 3 submitted by the West Riding County Officers' Association.

Rule 33 ; (a) to read : "*The President, the Immediate Past President, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Solicitors (all of whom shall be ex-officio members) and. . . .*"

Amendment No. 4 submitted by the Devon County Council Staff Association.

Rule 33, constitution ; 1 (a). That all words after the word "*year*" in line two be omitted.

Amendment submitted by the Metropolitan District Committee.

That, in order to give effect to Clause (9) (c) of the Special Report of the National Executive Council explaining the recommendations with regard to future elections of President and Vice-presidents, the rules of the Association be amended as follows :—

(aa) That Rule No. 28 be amended as follows : "To insert the following.—'14. *Induction of President,' and to renumber the existing item No. 14 as No. 15.*"

(bb) That, subject to the foregoing amendment of Rule 28 being adopted, Rule No. 19 be amended as follows : "*To add the following words to Section (a) : 'The Honorary Officers shall hold office for one year, namely, from the conclusion of the Annual Conference at which they are elected to the conclusion of the next succeeding Annual Conference.'*"

(cc) That Rule No. 19 (d) be amended by the addition of the following words, viz : "*The election of a person as an Honorary Officer shall not create a casual vacancy in the membership of the Council.*"

ITEM 10

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee.

That this Conference thanks the National Executive Council, and accepts its report on the effect of the various proposals submitted to the 1930 Conference regarding Annual Conference Railway Fares, but desires the National Executive Council to further consider the matter upon the basis of the following proposals, viz :—

(1) That the rebate to Branches be reduced from 35 per cent. to 33⅓ per cent.

(2) That the saving thus effected be paid into a Conference Railway Fare Fund.

(3) That there shall be paid from such fund the *return railway fare* (at the cheapest rate available) of one representative of every Branch attending Conference.

(4) That, if given effect to, the proposal be tried for a period of three years.

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the Berwick-upon-Tweed Branch.

That the recommendation of the N.E.C. be disapproved, and with a view to encouraging and enabling *all* Branches to send a representative to the Annual Conference :—

(1) A contribution towards the third-class railway fare (at the reduced rate) of one delegate attending the Annual Conference from each Branch with a membership of fifty or less be paid from the General Funds of the Association at the following rates, viz. :—

Fifty members and not less than thirty-one members—third-class railway fare in excess of £2.

Thirty members and not less than twenty-one members—third-class railway fare in excess of £1.

Twenty members or less—third-class railway fare.

Note.—Where the amount of the third-class fare (at the reduced rate) is less than £1 (One Pound) no grant to be made.

(2) A further contribution from the General Funds of the Association be paid towards the subsistence allowance of one delegate from a Branch of twenty members or less at the discretion of the N.E.C. on application being made and a copy of the Financial Statement of the Branch submitted to the General Secretary prior to the appointment of a delegate.

ITEM 11

Notice of Motion submitted by the Brighton Branch.

That the Motion be amended by the addition of the following words after the words "*rescinded*" on the second line, and the following substituted therefor, "*That the National Executive Council be instructed that for the Conference in 1932 and for all future Annual Conferences a copy of an Agenda giving resolutions to be moved and recommendations made by the National Executive Council be sent to each Branch in time to permit full consideration of such Agenda and motions and amendments to be tabled by Branches before the day appointed for the submission by Branches of resolutions for the Conference except as so far as relates to any resolutions adopted and recommendations made by the National Executive Council subsequent to the 31st January in each year.*"

ITEM 12

Amendment submitted by the West Riding County Officers' Association.

To delete all words after "*Levy*" in the fourth line of the Motion.

ITEM 17

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Halifax and District Branch.

After the word "*to*" on line 1, add "*consider and if deemed advisable to.*"

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the Stretford Branch.

To add at the end of the said Motion the following : "*or on completion of forty years' continuous service (dating from superannuation qualifying age).*"

ITEM 20

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Staffordshire County Officers' Branch.

(b) (2). After "*Rule 9*" insert "(a)."
(b) (2) (a). Delete "*10d.*" and insert "*7d.*"
(b) (2) (a). After the Scale of Subscriptions insert the following paragraphs :—

"*Retired members shall pay a subscription of 5s. per annum.*"

"*The Branch shall retain thirty-five per cent. of the total amount collected in subscriptions during each year.*"

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the North-Western and North Wales District Committee.

(a) That the National Executive Council be instructed to introduce a scale of subscriptions at the rate of 5s. per annum for officers whose salaries from Local Government appointments do not exceed £52 per annum.

(e) To add the words "*provided that it shall not be competent for any payment to be made to any political or trade organisation or object.*"

Amendment No. 3 submitted by the Leicester Branch.

(b) To amend the notice of Motion given by the Doncaster and Huddersfield Branches, as follows : "*Up to £120 per annum, 6d. per month.*"

(c) Notice of Motion given by the Liverpool Branch to amend as follows : "*To delete the word Probationer and substitute the sum of £50 instead of £40 per annum and 6d. per month instead of 5d. per month.*"

ITEM 22

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Yorkshire District Committee.

CLASSES OF AUTHORITY.

"That the words *'Provided that a member who is employed by a statutory joint board or committee of county authorities shall be allocated to the class of county authorities which provides the largest proportion of the income of the joint authority, and that the member shall be regarded as serving that class of authority'* to be inserted after the words *"6. Dock, Harbour and River Conservancy Authorities."*

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the North-Western and North Wales District Committee.

1 *District Committee areas.* First paragraph—"That the National Executive Council be instructed to consider the question of the increase of the number of elective members of the council."

2 *Classes of Authority.* To delete "*No. 6. Dock, Harbour and River Conservancy Authorities.*"

Amendment No. 3 submitted by the Manchester Branch.

Sub-section 2. *Classes of Authority.* That this motion be approved subject to the deletion of all reference to the granting of separate representation upon the National Executive Council to Dock, Harbour and River Conservancy Authorities.

ITEM 23

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Kent County Officers' Guild.

That in the interests of the Association generally, and in order that all present and future members should have the advantage of closer organising, social and propaganda activities, the N.E.C. do consider and report on the necessary amendment of Rule 55.

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the South-Eastern District Committee.

To delete all words after the word "*generally*" in the first line, and to substitute the words "*The National Executive Council be given power to carry the operation of Rule 55 in conjunction with the branches concerned.*"

Amendment No. 3 submitted by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Branch.

That the National Executive Council be requested to take into consideration the question of amending Rule 55 with a view of providing that members of a County Council Branch whose duties are discharged in areas away from the Central Offices shall be able to co-operate with the local branch of the area in which their work lies, in its activities, and to report hereon to the next Conference.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1. Voting Papers to be in hands of Secretary of District Committee by this date.
May 2. Counting of votes for N.E.C. commences in each district.
May 8. Conference Agenda (containing motions and amendments thereto) and list of representatives to be forwarded to representatives.
May 8. Branches desiring to divide voting strength at Conference to notify Headquarters of allocation.
May 9. Examination for Sister Tutor Scholarship.
May 14, 15 & 16. Nalgo Examinations.
May 23. Whit Saturday. First day of Conference Proceedings.
May 23. Nalgo Provident Society. Annual General Meeting, 4.30 p.m.
May 25. Whit Monday (Bank Holiday). Second day of Conference Proceedings.
May 31. Branches to remit all moneys due to the Association to Headquarters.

CORRESPONDENCE

LONG SERVICE

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—It would be interesting to know how many clerks and officials are still on the active service list, who were serving April 1, 1889 when County Councils came into being.

I entered the office of the Clerk of the Peace for Dorset as a lad of fourteen on March 22, 1886, and I have continued in the same service to date, under the County Council (forty-five years).—Yours truly,

ALBERT C. COX.

March 26, 1931.

NALGO PROVIDENT SOCIETY

THE Provident Society's Death Benefit and Life Assurance Funds have been valued for the quinquennial period ended December 31, 1930, and the actuary's report shows that the funds are in a healthy condition, and the Society is to be congratulated on the excellent valuation results. The following valuation Balance Sheet shows the large surpluses which have accrued :—

VALUATION BALANCE SHEET

	£
To Present Value of Benefits :	
Table II	5,1[illegible]
Tables III, IV, and V	94,135
„ Surpluses :—	
Death Benefit Fund	1,112
Life Assurance Fund	6,453
	£[illegible]
By Death Benefit Fund	2,205
„ Life Assurance Fund	29,527
„ Present Value of Contributions :—	
Table II	4,035
Tables III, IV, and V	71,061
	£106,828

The deaths experienced were 27 per cent. of those expected, and the declared surplus is the result of this exceedingly favourable mortality, and to the interest earned being in excess of the rate allowed for. On the advice of the actuary the Committee of Management has decided to declare a bonus of

£2 PER CENT.

in respect of each *completed* year a Death Benefit or a Life Assurance Policy had been in force between January 1, 1926, and December 31, 1930. It is no secret that this bonus declaration exceeds all expectations and proves that N.A.L.G.O. is best able to transact Life Assurance business for local government officers. It can compete successfully with the big life companies both as regards rates of premiums and bonuses.

The effect of the bonus distribution is to add £30 to a Policy for £300 which was effected in January, 1926, and has been in force five years, as shown in the following table :

Assurance in force on January 1	£20	£100	£200	£300
	£ s.	£	£	£
1926	2 0	10	20	30
1927	1 12	8	16	24
1928	1 4	6	12	18
1929	16	4	8	12
1930	8	2	4	6

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Supplies of agendas for the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be forwarded to each local correspondent and will be in the members' hands before publication of this issue. The meeting will be held in the Synod Hall, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, on Saturday, May 23, 1931, at 4.30 p.m.

The Committee of Management is submitting the following suggested amendments to the Rules :

RULE 9—MEMBERS' DEPOSITS.

Delete from line 5 of clause 1 the words "whilst receiving benefit from the Common Sick Fund" and substitute therefor the words "during a certified period of incapacity."

RULE 10 MEMBERS' "REST."

A After the word "year" in the first line of clause 1 add the words :—
"after the payment of claims for sickness benefit in accordance with Section 1 of Rule 13, and claims for convalescent benefit."

B Delete sub-section (a) of clause 1 and substitute the following therefor :—
"A sum not exceeding ninepence for each shilling contributed to the common sick fund for the year shall be placed to the credit of each member and shall constitute the member's "rest" fund. The balance remaining in the common sick fund shall be carried forward to the next period of account, but no member shall be entitled to withdraw any part of it on resignation."

C Delete the first two lines of sub-section (b) of clause 1 with the exception of the last word "the."

RULE 18—CONVALESCENT HOME [illegible]

C After the word "the" in line 4 of cl[illegible] words "Common Sick" and delete all [illegible] word "fund" in the same line.

OFFER TO LIFE POLICYHOLDERS

The annual meeting will be asked to approve a recommendation of the Committee of Management in order to carry out the decision of the Special Conference of N.A.L.G.O. held in London in March, 1930, to evolve a scheme whereby the whole of the Life Assurances of the Provident Society and Logomia, Ltd., (previously a section of the National Poor Law Officers' Association) could be placed in one fund. It is obviously undesirable and wasteful for two [illegible] of N.A.L.G.O. to transact the same [illegible] of business, and as Logomia, Ltd., is not restricted in the amount of its policies and can offer greater financial security to the policyholders the Provident Society's policyholders are [illegible] transfer their policies to Logomia, Ltd., as from July 1, 1931.

WHAT THE OFFER MEANS

The Committee of Management has negotiated a very advantageous offer to the members who are insured under Tables 3, 4 and 5, but it does not include those holding Death Benefits under Table 2, as these are essentially Friendly Society Benefits and will not be transferred. The offer, briefly, is that they should surrender their policies with the Provident Society and accept from Logomia, Ltd. :—

1 Policies for the same amount at the same, or lower, premium as they are paying at present, the sum assured to be payable together with profits on the same date as provided in the present policies.
2 One £1 share (10s. paid) which will give them the full [illegible]ing of shareholders in the company and entitle them to a share of the profits distributed in respect of business other than life assurance, in addition to those added to their policies.
3 As the distribution of a £2 per cent. bonus mentioned above will only exhaust about £4,000 of the declared surplus of £6,453, the balance will be apportioned to the policyholders under Tables 3 and 4 according to the amount their policies have earned. Should any member decide not to transfer his policy, this additional bonus will have to remain, together with an amount the actuary may decide, in the Provident Society's Life Fund to meet future contingencies.

On the assumption that the whole of the existing life and endowment policyholders in the Provident Society agree to accept the offer, the whole of the Life Fund of the Provident Society would be transferred to the Life Fund of Logomia, but in the event of there being any policyholders who do not accept the offer, such proportion of the Life Fund of the Provident Society be transferred to the Life Fund of Logomia as may be certified by the actuary to be payable.

In order that only one section of N.A.L.G.O. can transact life assurance business Logomia, under its constitution, is able to issue policies for any amount, whereas the Provident Society is restricted to a maximum of £300.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months : November, 57; December, 55; January, 53; February, 52; March 50; April 47.

The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows :

	FEB.	MAR.	APR.
Food	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rent	54	54	54
Clothing	105	100	[illegible]
Fuel and Light ..	85	75	75
Other Items ..	75	75	75

The Ministry of Labour Gazette states that in the Food group, whilst potatoes were slightly dearer during March, eggs were much cheaper, summer prices for milk were introduced in a number of towns and reductions were also recorded in the average prices of butter, flour, beef, mutton, bacon and fish.

In regard to rent, the statistics of the Ministry of Labour take into account decontrolled rents of working class dwellings [illegible]

SCOTTISH NALGO NEWS

THE Scottish District Committee met at Glasgow on Saturday, April 11, when there as a large attendance of representatives. Mr. Hugh Begg, F.R.C.V.S., was in the chair.

OPINIONS OF COUNSEL

The secretary referred to steps taken to obtain he opinion of counsel on questions arising out of he provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) ct with regard to transfer and compensation. nswers had so far been obtained to two out of he twenty questions. These questions related to he legality of reducing salaries of transferred fficers, as Lanarkshire County Council proposed o do. The secretary had met Mr. Graham obertson, K.C., and Mr. Reid, Advocate, and ead to the meeting the opinion received, which ave rise to much discussion. Mr. George S. raser, Town Clerk of Aberdeen, the Honorary olicitor, expressed his own views on the subject. n view of the varied reductions made by Lanark- hire County Council, it was decided to take mmediate action in the Court of Session, the xact nature of the action to be left for Counsel to lecide. It was further agreed that all details hould be left in the hands of a small committee.

It was reported that no reply had been received rom the Secretary of State for Scotland regarding he question of a departmental committee on the qualifications, recruitment, training and promo- ion of local government officers in Scotland.

INADEQUATE STAFFING

Representations have been made to the Depart- ment of Health regarding inadequate staffing, particularly in Public Assistance Departments, which has caused for many months past an enormous amount of overtime work. Officials of he department state that, while they are aware of he facts complained of, they have no power to ake action in the matter. They suggest that the committee might communicate direct with local authorities. Since the last meeting of the District Committee additions to staffs have been made in two or three places where conditions are at their worst, and it is thought that there has been a general easing of the situation If any branch desires a communication to be sent to local authorities in their area, this shall be done.

SPORTS DAY

Mr. S. H. Brodie, the Sports Secretary, states that the Perth Branch has suggested that the Sports Day this year be held in the Fair City. It seemed that Perth could provide excellent facilities, and it is proposed to make arrangements for holding the Sports Day on the second or third Saturday in September.

SUMMER SCHOOL

It is hoped very soon to issue branches a Prospectus and forms for enrolment for the Summer School. It is proposed to invite a number of men prominent in local government and parliamentary affairs to the Inaugural Dinner on Saturday, July 11, when the school will be opened by the Solicitor-general. In connection with the school, Mr. S. E. F. Reid reports that Dundee Branch has decided to give two scholar- ships of five guineas each to two young members of the branch wishing to attend the school. This intimation should give a lead to other branches.

PROPAGANDA

A propaganda meeting has been held at Stirling with the staffs of the county council and arrangements are being made for a meeting with the staffs of Ayr County Council. The County Clerk, Mr. Jas. E. Shaw, has, as a result, joined the association. In Lanarkshire a successful meeting, addressed by the D.O.S., was held with a section of the county staff, and it is proposed to convene a large meeting in Glasgow with a view to enrolling those on the staffs at Lanarkshire House who are not already members. Within the last few weeks over forty members of the staffs have joined, but there are still a number outside the ranks. Arrangements are being made for a meeting in Perth with the staffs of the County Council.

GLASGOW INCREASES

Our application to Glasgow Corporation for a substantial increase in the maximum of the grades has now, after many months, been dealt with. While we have not obtained the increases we asked for—in the prevailing sentiment of the moment this was scarcely to be expected—we have been granted a redress of the worst grievance and in future the increments of the third grade will be at the rate of £15 instead of £10 after two years service. This means that a young man will reach the maximum of the grade at the age of twenty-six or twenty-seven in place of five years later.

DUNDEE

Messrs. Fox and Mortimer appeared at Dundee Corporation public meeting on April 2 to object to the appointment of a committee to consider "cuts" on salaries. Mr. Fox put up an excellent case and though it was decided by a small majority to appoint the committee, it is considered very doubtful whether anything will come of it. Some councillors, who had no objection to the question being considered, see no case for "cuts."

WHIST COMPETITION

The results of the Metropolitan District Committee Whist Competition are as follows :—

Divisional Winners.—Western, Hammersmith; Eastern, Barking; South-western, Chelsea; Central, Willesden; Northern, Edmonton; Southern, Woolwich.

Intermediate.—Barking beat Chelsea; Edmonton beat Woolwich.

Semi-final.—Hammersmith beat Willesden; Edmonton beat Barking.

Final.—Hammersmith beat Edmonton.

The Final was played at Paddington Town Hall on April 17, when, after a very close and interesting game, Hammersmith won by 10 points—the score being 837, 827.

National Association of Local Government Officers

An Offer Worth Accepting **COUPON** Privileges to Members

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Please send me, free of charge, a new "Privilege Ticket" relating to your offer of SPECIAL TERMS to members of the "N.A.L.G.O."

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Official Address .....

(in full) .....

.....

This Coupon may be posted in envelope (unsealed) under one halfpenny stamp.

MOTOR INSURANCE

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

As from May 1, 1931, all inquiries, correspondence, remittances for premiums, etc., should be addressed to :

MESSRS.

NORMAN FRIZZELL & PARTNERS, LTD.,
FARLEIGH HOUSE,
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who are offering the "N.A.L.G.O." Motor Car and Motor Cycle comprehensive Policies at much lower rates of premium than those quoted by other Companies.

"NALGO" POLICIES ARE THE BEST

NALGO IN SCOTLAND

By J. M. MORTIMER, D.O.S.

IN Scotland the association is a post-war institution. It is true that prior to the war one or two branches had been formed—Dundee, Lanarkshire, Paisley, Edinburgh and Greenock are all pre-war branches—but they came into being only a few months before the outbreak of hostilities and were unable to function properly until after the war. The formation of a Scottish Council was first attempted in 1917, but while the national crises continued, the officials were far too busy to attend to personal or professional interests and it was not until July, 1919, that the council was properly constituted, with Sir John Lindsay, late Town Clerk of Glasgow, as the first chairman. In that year the Glasgow officials came into membership, and in the following year a Scottish office was opened and the present Organising Secretary for Scotland appointed.

The organisation in Scotland very soon became consolidated and functioned as a distinct unit of the much larger organisation across the border. In the first few years activities were almost wholly devoted to propaganda and to the securing of the Civil Service scale of bonus for our members. The cost-of-living figures had risen to a very high level and local authorities had given little or nothing by way of addition to salary. The crying need for an organisation of officials and staffs was, therefore, apparent, and this for some time made the work of propaganda comparatively easy. The really difficult task was to get the local authorities to admit the perfectly just claims for war bonus. The Government definitely recommended the application of the Civil Service scale of bonus to salary, but local authorities were difficult to move in the matter. Glasgow and Edinburgh Corporations went to arbitration on the subject and other authorities pursued a most exasperating policy of delay. However, within two or three years we induced in all sixty-one local authorities to adopt the 101 Civil Service Award, and later a few adopted the subsequent award which instituted the sliding scale.

In Scotland we have, of course, a very small number of officials compared with England, and therefore the figures as to membership look small by comparison. Our Scottish membership has varied between 3,000 and 4,000. When we were agitating for war bonus and conducting arbitration proceedings with Edinburgh and Glasgow Corporations the membership rose appreciably. After we had attained our objective a considerable number, unacquainted with the principles of organisation, dropped out. Soon, however, it became apparent that a continuous association continuously supported was absolutely necessary, and our membership again rose, and for the past five years it has steadily grown to its present dimensions.

From 1926 onwards our work has very largely consisted in dealing with questions of transfer and compensation. We had, first of all, the parliamentary aspect of that work in securing clauses which gave adequate protection to the officials. Then of late we have been kept busy giving advice on difficult questions arising out of the provisions of the acts dealing with transfer and compensation. At the moment it would seem as if our most difficult work in this matter had yet to be done.

In the educational activities of the association our members in Scotland have always been willing and anxious to play their part. A new venture for which we are hopeful of success, is a summer school to be held at St. Andrews for one week beginning Saturday, July 11. We have secured an array of distinguished lecturers, and the social side is being well catered for.

Save in a few exceptional cases, the North Riding Public Assistance Committee has arranged that the practice of paying commission to Relieving Officers acting as Collectors shall be discontinued. Remuneration for this work is to be merged in their salaries.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:
24 ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "B. & O.," "Provident," etc.

Telephone: Victoria 6056 (3 lines).
Telegrams: Natassoc, Parl., London.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

NALGO CONFERENCE, WHITSUN, 1931

Daily Programme

FRIDAY, MAY 22.—10 a.m., Golf Tournament commences at Mortonhall Golf Course. Conveyance leaves Synod Hall at 9.30 a.m.; 10 a.m., Tennis Tournament commences at Mortonhall Tennis Club Courts, conveyance leaves Synod Hall at 9.30 a.m.; Luncheon may be had at Mortonhall Golf Club House at membership charges. Teas may be had at Mortonhall Tennis Club Courts at very moderate rates; 2.30 p.m., Bowls Tournament at Braid Bowling Club Green (conveyance will leave Synod Hall at 2 p.m.); 8 p.m., Reception by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh in the College of Art, Lauriston Place. Dancing from 8.30 p.m.; carriages, 12 a.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 23.—9.30 a.m., Opening of Conference at Synod Hall, Castle Terrace, and official welcome by the Lord Provost; 12.30 p.m., Adjournment of Conference; 12.45 p.m., Luncheon at the Caledonian Hotel to the local Conference Council by the N.E.C.; 2.30 p.m., Resumption of Conference; 4.15 p.m., Adjournment of Conference; 4.30 p.m., Annual meeting, Nalgo Provident Society, in Conference Room.

SUNDAY, MAY 24.—10.30 a.m., Delegates assemble on the Esplanade, the Castle, for viewing the Scottish National War Memorial; 11.30 a.m., Excursion by motor coach to the Scott country, back in town about 4.30 p.m. (ticket, including cost of lunch, 9s. 6d.); 11.30 a.m., Excursion by motor coach to Tweed Valley and Peebles. Back in town about 4.15 p.m. (ticket, including cost of lunch, 8s.); 6 p.m., Assemble at Synod Hall for Church Service in St. Cuthbert's Church, seats reserved.

MONDAY, MAY 25.—9.30 a.m., Resumption of Conference at Synod Hall; 12.30 p.m., Adjournment of Conference; 12.45 p.m., Conference Photograph; 2.30 p.m., Resumption of Conference; 8 p.m., Conference Dance at the Palais de Danse, Fountainbridge (ticket, including running buffet, 3s. 6d.).

TUESDAY, MAY 26.—10 a.m., All day motor coach tour to Loch Lomond, returning via Aberfoyle and Stirling. (ticket, including lunch and tea, 11s. 6d.); the lunch and tea on this tour will be provided at the kind invitation of the Glasgow Branch of N.A.L.G.O.; return back in town about 8 p.m.; 2.30 p.m., Afternoon tour by Motor Coach to Linlithgow Palace, via the Forth Bridge (ticket, including tea, 5s.); tea will be provided on this tour at the kind invitation of the Glasgow Branch of N.A.L.G.O.; back in town about 6 p.m.

Important: All tours leave from the Synod Hall.

CONFERENCE COMPETITIONS

Representatives attending the Conference are urged to enter for the Conference Competitions in golf, tennis and bowls. Application forms will be sent to all representatives, and Entry Forms with the necessary fees should reach Headquarters not later than May 6. Entrance fee, 2s. 6d. per person.

Details of the competitions are as follows:

GOLF

Special buses will leave the Synod Hall at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, May 22, to convey competitors to the Mortonhall Golf Course. Lunch and tea may be obtained at rates charged to Club members. No charge will be made to competitors for transport. Each competitor must sign the members' register book and also give his name to the Club Mistress.

Conditions. 36 Holes Medal Play. The player returning the lowest net score for 36 holes becomes the holder of the "Alexander Walker" shield until the Annual Conference, 1932. Souvenirs will be presented to the winner and the runner-up.

The privileges of membership of the Mortonhall Golf Club are extended to Conference representatives for the Friday, Monday and Tuesday.

BOWLS

Special buses will leave the Synod Hall at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 22, to convey competitors to the Braid Bowling Club Green. Tea may be obtained at the club-house at a charge of 1s. per person. No charge will be made for transport.

Conditions. The match will consist of 21 ends—6 rinks. The winners will hold the "Hugh Begg" cup until the Annual Conference, 1932. Souvenirs will be provided.

TENNIS

Special buses will leave the Synod Hall at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, May 22, to convey competitors to the Mortonhall Tennis Courts (grass courts). Meals may be obtained at the tennis courts at very moderate charges. No charge will be made to competitors for transport.

Conditions. The tournament is on a "knock-out" basis (best of three sets, five sets in the final). The winner will hold the "Lowestoft" cup until the Annual Conference, 1932, and, together with the runner-up, will receive a souvenir.

CROYDE BAY CAMP

CROYDE BAY HOLIDAY CAMP

THE Camp opened for the season on Thursday, April 2, and there was a goodly gathering of members and friends in residence for the Easter holidays. The weather was not too kind with the result that more use than usual was made of the large recreation room in the pavilion.

Those who can take their holidays during May and June or towards the end of September are strongly recommended to do so as during those months there is ample accommodation for members, their families and friends. The bookings already received for July and August indicate that there will be no surplus accommodation during these months, and preference is being given to bookings during the high season from members and their parties. Those who *must* take their holidays during July and August should apply as quickly as possible. It was expected that the Camp would appeal particularly to the junior members of the service, as an ideal method of spending their vacations in ideal surroundings and conditions but inquiries and bookings show that the senior members of the service have been very quick to grasp the facilities which the camp offers for them to get a satisfying holiday, alike economical, enjoyable, and healthful, and their early action in regard to booking is commended to all.

The reduced fare facilities offered by the railway companies this year will enable members to reach the camp on reasonable terms and conveniently make their bookings from Saturday to Saturday. Arrangements are in hand for fixing a schedule of excursions at reasonable charges from the Camp to the many places of interest in the district.

Various inquiries have reached headquarters in regard to the camp. It may be said at once that the sanitary arrangements are entirely satisfactory and the purity of the water supply has been proved by more than one analysis. The charges include full board and residence. Visitors are required to provide their own towels. Dogs are not allowed to be brought into the camp. Every hut is furnished with one or more beds (according to type) with spring mattress and bedding, additional blankets, etc., may be obtained on request. There is a dressing table with mirror, a shelf and pegs for clothes; and each hut has a wash-basin with running water.

The camp is outside the free delivery area from Braunton station for luggage in advance and a charge of 6d. per package is made for passengers' luggage arriving at or leaving the camp. All meals are taken in the dining-room in the large pavilion. Breakfast is at 8.30 a.m., dinner 1 p.m., tea 5 p.m., and supper 7.30 to 9 p.m. Golfers are catered for by the famous links at Saunton, about a mile away, and other courses are at Hele, near Ilfracombe, Westward Ho, Lee, and Woolacombe.

An official guide to Barnstaple, obtained from the Town Clerk, The Castle, Barnstaple, price 6d., gives reliable information as to that town and places in the vicinity. The Urban District Council of Ilfracombe issues an official booklet which is well illustrated and contains much information of interest to visitors to the camp.

TRAVELLING FACILITIES

Arrangements have been made with the Railway Clearing House whereby the railway companies in Great Britain, with the exception of the Metropolitan, Metropolitan District, and London Electric Railway Companies, have agreed to issue tickets, available from May 20 to 28, at the ordinary single fare and one-third for the double journey (fractions of 3d. reckoned as 3d.), to delegates and friends travelling to Conference. Vouchers are being issued to the representatives appointed to attend the Conference. The voucher must be produced and surrendered at the local booking office, when the representatives book their tickets.

BURTON-ON-TRENT

At a meeting held on March 11, the Town Council again considered the adoption of the Local Government and other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and decided to defer the matter for twelve months.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited, and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

MAY 1931

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NOTES OF THE MONTH

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE

BEFORE the next issue of this journal appears the Edinburgh Conference will have passed into history. The Conference will be the fourteenth annual assembly which has been held since the reorganisation of N.A.L.G.O. in 1917 and the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Association. It will also mark the first occasion that the Association has revisited a town for a conference. The first time N.A.L.G.O. assembled in Edinburgh was in 1921, exactly ten years ago. It will also mark a very important occasion in the relinquishment of the Presidential Chair by Mr. A. P. Johnson, who retired from the town-clerkship of Hampstead in January last. This event alone will make the forthcoming conference memorable. It has only been saved from being an extremely sad occasion by the fact that the National Executive Council has recommended that Mr. Johnson should fill a new office of Past-President and retain his seat on the National Executive Council for another year.

As the National Executive Council points out in its special report on the subject: "Up to the present time there have been only three Presidents of the Association since its inception. The first President, and for one year only, was Mr. E. R. Pickmere, M.A., J.P., Town Clerk, Liverpool. From 1907–1924 the President was Sir Homewood Crawford, C.B., City Solicitor, London, and since 1924, the office has been held by Mr. A. P. Johnson, M.A., Town Clerk, Hampstead. Mr. Johnson has been both a distinguished Public Officer and a leading member of the Association for many years. He was Honorary Solicitor to the Association from 1907 to 1910; he has been Chairman of the Council and National Executive Council since 1911; and he has been President of the Association since 1924. There is probably no name which is so familiar throughout the Local Government Service as that of Mr. A. P. Johnson, and, therefore, the responsibility resting upon the National Executive Council to nominate a President to succeed him is no light duty."

In nominating for the office of President Mr. S. Lord, F.S.A.A., F.S.S., Borough Treasurer of Acton, the Council will have made a popular proposal. Mr. Lord will come into the picture more prominently in the near future.

A LOGICAL RECOMMENDATION

AN issue which appears to have assumed important dimensions, judging by the number of considered amendments now appearing on the agenda paper, is not only the principle, but the method of appointing the Vice-President or Vice-Presidents. The National Executive Council has made definite recommendations and has followed these up by issuing a carefully prepared statement which gives the reasons for the suggested departure from present practice.

Before the last annual conference both the District Committees and the National Executive Council could nominate persons for all the honorary offices, but at the Lowestoft Conference the Rule was amended restricting the nomination for the office of President to the National Executive Council. The first time that the National Executive Council has been called upon to exercise that prerogative is, singularly enough, when the Association has to find a successor to Mr. Johnson. This marks a very important occasion in the Association's history, and it has been necessary to look beyond one year in approaching a change of such importance. The National Executive Council, after reviewing the whole position, came to the conclusion that it would be better to make provision for the change of President each year, and it was felt that whoever may be called upon to fill such an important office as President of N.A.L.G.O. should at least have a working knowledge of the Association before taking up the reins of office. It seems, therefore, to be a logical sequence that a Vice-President should succeed to the office of President, and as the National Executive Council had already been charged with the responsibility of nominating a President they decided to ask the Conference to allow them, in future, to nominate two Vice-Presidents, from whom the President would be chosen. The recommendation is strictly in keeping with the principle laid down at the Lowestoft Conference.

Whatever the final decision of the Edinburgh meeting, it will, we feel sure, be made without reference to individuals, personal ambition, or depth of feeling. It is a choice of several alternatives, and the best interest of N.A.L.G.O. as a whole will undoubtedly be regarded as paramount.

ORGANISATION PROBLEMS

AMONG the remaining items on the agenda are several old friends. One which calls for consideration is the suggestion that the area of Branch organisation should be dissociated from the area of the employing authority. This issue arises from the transfer of the ex-Poor Law Officers to the County and County Borough Authorities, and mainly affects the County Council Branches.

Before the passing of the 1929 Act some of the members of County Council Branches were scattered throughout the county and they were to some extent detached from the centre of the Branches' activities. The position has however become somewhat acute since the County Councils took over the administration of the Poor Law functions.

There are two component parts in the scheme of organisation and both are entitled to consideration. The first essential is to preserve the right of a branch to speak on behalf of all the officers of the employing authority; the second is concerned with the domestic side of the Association's scheme of organisation and activities.

We cannot, nor do we wish to suggest which line should be followed, but a new question has arisen which calls for a little statesmanship and probably a little give-and-take. Circumstances differ and perhaps the better course would be to give the National Executive Council the power to adjust the problems according to local needs.

The Wheel, Wallasey's own branch publication, has entered upon its seventh year and "continues to revolve." Published quarterly, the current issue acts as an excellent liaison between branch and membership.

SUMMER SCHOOL AT ORIEL COLLEGE, OXFORD

WE give the detailed syllabus for the lectures to be delivered by Dr. Robson during the first week of the Association's Summer School:

LECTURE 1.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE MODERN WORLD

[illegible] of the place of local government in the [illegible]. An attempt will be made to indicate not [illegible] which have occurred in the scope [illegible] local government itself, but also the [illegible] which has been brought about in the sphere [illegible] ment and international organisation, [illegible] between local, national and international [illegible] be considered. Attention will also be [illegible] paid to the interactions between local authorities and un[illegible] local organisations.

LECTURE 2.—MUNICIPAL CONTROL: The vast mass of muni[illegible]cipal functions can be divided broadly into powers of [illegible] and powers of [illegible]. This lecture will deal [illegible] with the control exercised by the local authority over the [illegible] duct of the citizens, which is historically the older form [illegible] of government. The forms of control evolved in past [illegible] years will be briefly summarized, and an outline given [illegible] of important changes introduced by the earlier phases [illegible] of the Industrial Revolution. The needs of the twentieth [illegible] century will then be discussed with a view to estimating [illegible] the extent to which the social requirements of the present [illegible] day are likely to be met by the existing municipal [illegible] system.

LECTURE 3.—MUNICIPAL SERVICE: An outline of the Evolu[illegible]tion of Municipal Services and of the way in which they [illegible] are run. The basis and structure of local [illegible] administration will be examined from [illegible] the point of view of local authorities as [illegible] agents which are demanded of [illegible] them. Progressive tendencies are being [illegible] encouraged.

LECTURE 4.—LOCAL INDUSTRY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: The relation between the local authority and private economic enterprise within its area. The effect of the centralisation of business and industry on the local council. The interaction between municipal trading and profit[illegible]making enterprise. The question of competition and [illegible] co-operation. The problem of industry in relation to [illegible] town planning, education, and transport. The [illegible] control of finance and banking. The pro[illegible]vision required by the local authority.

PARLIAMENT AND JUDICIARY

Mr. Jennings, who follows Dr. Robson during the remainder of the week will lecture on Parliament, the Courts, and Local Government. He will continue the general discussion of the movement from control to service which has characterised the development of Local Government during the last fifty years. Here is his syllabus:

LECTURE 1: The Powers of Local Authorities in general: the development from Control to Service. Methods of obtaining new powers: local Acts, Provisional and other Orders.

Defects of this system: (a) Waste of Parliamentary time; (b) Delay; (c) Expense.

LECTURE 2: The Reform of Parliamentary Procedure.

Schemes of Devolution and their relation to (1) the organisation of local government, (b) new methods of obtaining powers.

LECTURES 3 AND 4: Judicial [illegible]pretation of powers.

[illegible] effects in this system: (a) [illegible] present organisation of [illegible]; (b) expense; (d) absence of [illegible] bodies.

These defects illustrated in (1) recent cases brought on prerogative writs (11) the derating appeals.

The need for administrative tribunals: (a) advantages; (b) disadvantages.

Dr. Robson and Mr. Jennings are members of the staff of the London School of Economics. Dr. Robson edits the *Local Government News*, and has published many books dealing with municipal structure, the functions of local authorities, public health administration, the cultural and æsthetic activities of local councils and many other matters of prime importance. Mr. Jennings is an expert on legal matters and has lectured both at the University of Leeds and in the London School of Economics (which is one of the Colleges of the University of London). Before coming to the school, Mr. Jennings' activities had brought him into contact with local government law and he had prepared an annotated edition of the Local Government Act, 1929. Since taking up his duties, he has come into contact with other aspects of local government law and his experience has extended considerably. Mr. Jennings is legal editor of the *Local Government Chronicle*.

With regard to the general arrangements of the School, there will be an opening dinner on Saturday, July 25, at which Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, will deliver the opening address. On the following Monday morning, the opening academic lecture will be given by Professor H. D. Laski, M.A., also of the London School of Economics.

During the first week of the School, students will have an opportunity of meeting Mr. Konstam, K.C., who appears in the majority of important rating cases now brought in our Courts.

It is proposed next month to print details of the work during the second week of the Summer School at Oriel College. Enrolment forms and a detailed syllabus are now ready and can be obtained from the general secretary. As accommodation in Oriel is strictly limited, it would be advisable for intending students either to enrol or to send a preliminary notification of their desire to enrol to the general secretary at an early date, if possible well before July 1.

OXFORD
ORIEL COLLEGE
JULY 25 AUG 8 1931
N.A.L.G.O.
SUMMER SCHOOL
FULL PARTICULARS AND ENROLMENT FORM FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY, 24 ABINGDON ST., WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

SIR ARTHUR ROBINSON, G.C.B., C.B.E., Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, who opened the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School of 1930, has presented a prize of the value of £5 5s. for the best essay on one of the undermentioned subjects.

(1) The place of the Local Government Act, 1929, in the development of local government.
(2) The best method of training for the local government service.
(3) The relations between the local government official, his council and its committees.
(4) How and into what departments the work of a local authority may best be organised.
(5) The existing arrangements for co-ordinating the different branches of the work of a local authority and what, if any, improvements could be made.

The prize essay will form the basis of one of the informal meetings at the 1931 Oxford Summer School. Copies of the essay will be circulated to students enrolled, and if not already a student, the author will be invited to attend for that session. A general discussion on the subject of the essay will be taken, and the author will be given an opportunity of answering any points raised in the debate. If suitable in size the essay will be published in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

[illegible]—(1) The competition is open to all members of the N.A.L.G.O. (2) The essay may be in manuscript, typewritten, or printed. (3) No stipulation is made as to length. (4) The final selection by Sir Arthur Robinson must be taken as conclusive. (5) Essays must reach the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 23 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before July 1, 1931. (6) Each essay must be headed with the title chosen and a *nom de plume*. A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address, and branch and bearing on the outside his *nom de plume* must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay. (7) The result of the competition will be announced prior to July 25, 1931.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The receipt of Essays from "Bon-accord" and "Inverugi" is acknowledged.

SCHOLARSHIP, SCHOOL AND EXAMINATION DATES

May 9.—Examination for the Sister Tutor Scholarship.
" 14-16.—Nalgo Preliminary, Intermediate, and Final Examinations.
June 30.—Last days for sending in registration forms for the Summer Schools.
July 1.—Last day for sending in Essays for the Sir Arthur Robinson Competition.
" 11.—Opening of the Scottish Summer School.
" 25.—Opening of the Summer School at Oriel College, Oxford.
Aug. 1.—Opening of the second week of the Summer School at Oriel College, Oxford.

OFFICIAL VACANCIES

Advertised in the "Municipal Journal" during April and still open for application at the time "Local Government Service" went to press. The last day for receipt of applications is stated.

STAFFS (C.C.).—Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, April 24. App. Eustace Joy, Clerk, Staffs C.C., County Buildings, Stafford.

BEESTON, NOTTS (U.D.C.).—Fire Brigade Superintendent, May 2. App. C. H. Wragg, Clerk of the Council, Public Offices, Beeston.

BARNSTAPLE (B.).—Borough Surveyor, April 25. App. J. H. L. Brewer, Town Clerk, The Castle, Barnstaple.

HESTON AND ISLEWORTH (U.D.C.).—District Sanitary Inspector, April 25. App. H. J. Baker, Clerk of the Council, Council House, Hounslow.

WALSALL (C.B.).—Junior Asst. Solicitor, May 2. App. Herbert Lee, Town Clerk, Town Clerk's Office, Walsall.

LIVERPOOL (C.B.).—M.O.H., May 2. App. Walter Moon, Town Clerk, Town Clerk's Office, Liverpool.

PORTSMOUTH (C.B.).—Inspector of Weights and Measures, May 11. App. F. J. Sparks, Town Clerk, The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

HOVE (B.) AND PORTSLADE-BY-SEA (U.D.C.).—M.O.H., May 4. App. W. Jermyn Harrison, Town Clerk, and Ernest H. Kempe, Clerk to the Council, Town Hall, Hove.

BIRMINGHAM (C.B.).—Steward at the Selly Oak Hospital and Infirmary, May 1. App. F. H. C. Wiltshire, Town Clerk, Council House, Birmingham.

EAST HAM (C.B.).—Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, April 24. App. C. Eustace Wilson, Town Clerk, Town Hall, East Ham, London, E.6.

STOCKPORT (C.B.).—Water Engineer, May 2. App. Robert Hyde, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Stockport.

PETERBOROUGH (C.B.).—Assistant Accountant, May 2. App. Arthur J. Reeves, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Peterborough.

DINBURGH—A SELF-CONSCIOUS CITY

(*Continued from page 124*)

on Jail, recently removed, and it is an ation of the self-consciousness of the le that they so strenuously and successfully sed the planting there of plain buildings ed to be unworthy of the site.

he Edinburgh of modern times offers some rkable contrasts with the Edinburgh of pre- on times. From the narrow confines of the within the Flodden Wall it has expanded in until it now occupies 32,402 acres. The is 11¼ miles long and its extreme breadth is les. All this area, of course, is not a closely ed succession of streets. The recent expan- took in a considerable rural area. The over- ing of the population beyond the Flodden l into Princes Street and other surrounding s was followed by the planning of the New n, another example of the self-consciousness dinburgh. The New Town is a notable nple of forethought, of the careful arranging rding to plan of long, straight thorough- s, varied by crescents and circular arrange- ts of stately buildings. Charlotte Square, at west end of Princes Street, is one of the finest aspects to be seen anywhere, with its arrange- ts of Adam-designed houses. Recently, iful alterations were made in order to restore e of the buildings to their original architec- l purity, one or two minor variations that had t into the design being removed.

he streets of Edinburgh are 300 miles in th. The population is over 400,000. It has ts and public buildings which suggest the ote Highlands in their natural wildness. has sea ports, and the watering place of tobello—one of the "Brightons of Scotland." nburgh's charm, however, does not lie in istics. It is a city of extraordinary and dramatic trasts, of picturesque views, of surprising inspiring monuments and buildings. Its n hills make one think of a great city of sic times. Its Calton Hill, with its National morial and other monuments, bring up ights of Athens. It is a romantic city. It has ny moods. The clear light of a summer day, naps, is too stark and uncompromising to eal to the imagination. But see Princes et and the castle in the red flush of an evening . Or look out from the Castle on the wide a in a morning light, when the wisps of oke are trailing towards the west. Or go oad, again, and seek new impressions under the sterious conditions of moonlight and night e.

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N.A.L.G.O. HOLIDAY GUIDE

MORE than 240 pages of the N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Guide, 1931, are devoted to resorts at home and their hotels and recommended accommodation. The alphabetic arrangement affords a very ready reference to the contents. A number of pages is devoted to particulars of Foreign Tours and Cruises, and another section provides just the information required by a visitor to London in regard to accommodation, theatres, and events and places of interest.

Members of the Association can consult a copy which has been forwarded to each Branch Secretary, but those desiring to make a careful study of a suitable place for their holidays and of the accommodation offered will be wise to obtain a copy for their own use. They may be obtained from Branch Secretaries or Headquarters at the nominal charge of 3d. each (by post 6½d.).

A HOLIDAY AFLOAT

N.A.L.G.O. caters at Croyde Bay Bungalow Camp for those who may decide to have a seaside holiday at home, but there are others whose requirements will be better satisfied by a three weeks' holiday on the S.S. *Avoceta*, leaving Liverpool on Saturday, July 25, calling at Lisbon, Casablanca, and other ports, for which an inclusive charge of £25 is made.

A full complement has always been obtained for this annual cruise, and the greater part of the accommodation has already been booked. It is difficult to rate too highly the enjoyment and satisfaction provided by this organised cruise. There is no distinction of class and all form one happy party united in the aims of rest, recreation, and enjoyment.

Portuguese, Spanish, and French ports are entered and at Casablanca Arab life may be studied at close quarters. Why not taste the joys of life afloat and of foreign travel this year? Detailed itinerary and booking form may be obtained from Branch Secretaries or from Headquarters, 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Early booking is necessary.

HOW TO GET RID OF INDIGESTION.

Those who suffer from indigestion, gastritis, acidity, flatulence, dyspepsia, heartburn, etc., will be glad to learn that instant relief can be obtained by taking half a teaspoonful of 'Bisurated' Magnesia powder, or two or three tablets, in a little water immediately after eating or whenever pain is felt. This instantly neutralises the acid that causes all the trouble, stops the fermentation, heals and soothes the inflamed stomach lining, and restores painless, normal digestion. Get a 1s. 3d. package of 'Bisurated' Magnesia of your chemist to-day; use as directed, and you will soon be telling your friends how you got rid of indigestion.

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BRANCH & DISTRICT NEWS

ABERSYCHAN

Mr. J. E. N. Davis was received as a deputation by the Urban District Council regarding superannuation, and the Council agreed to obtain the report of an actuary.

AYRSHIRE

The Ayrshire Branch held a successful whist drive and dance in Kilmarnock on March 27. At the supper Mr. James E. Shaw, County Clerk, presided, supported by several members of Kilmarnock Town Council. After Mrs. Shaw had presented the prizes for whist, Mr. Shaw proposed the Association, giving an account of the Association's work.

BATH

The present membership of the branch is 158, which is an increase since December last of 18. Mr. H. H. Morgan, a vice-president, and City Treasurer, presented two of his staff who are leaving to take up fresh appointments with suit case and pipe each. They were Mr. W. J. Webber and Mr. H. A. Wallis. The best wishes of their colleagues accompany them.

BELFAST

The Belfast City Council rejected a resolution to secure a 10 per cent. "cut" in the salaries of officials receiving more than £250 per annum, and of inspectors, foremen, and artisans receiving more than £300 per annum. A motion inviting the Council to reverse its decision in committee against the salary increases recommended by the various committees was rejected.

BIRMINGHAM

A branch of N.A.L.G.O. has been established in Birmingham by transferred Public Assistance officers who were members of the National Poor Law Officers' Association, with valuable help from other officers who have been members of N.A.L.G.O. under other authorities. Miss B. H. Downing and Mr. Lionel Perks, of the Public Assistance Department respectively, have accepted office as hon. treasurer and hon. secretary.

BLACKBURN

An enjoyable dance, organised by Messrs. J. L. Crompton, R. Halliwell, A. Shaw, and N. W. E. Hamm, all of the Treasurer's Department, was held in the Brownhill Assembly Rooms, Blackburn, on March 19. The enterprise was rewarded by a net profit of nearly £4, handed over to the Branch Secretary as a donation to the B. and O. Fund.

BRADFORD

The Estimates Sub-Committee at Bradford have been requested by the Council to reconsider the present grading and scales of salaries of all Corporation officers and employees. An application has been made by the Association for a deputation to be received on this matter.

BRISTOL

The annual general meeting of the Bristol Branch of N.A.L.G.O. was held on March 2 at the Royal Hotel, College Green. The Town Clerk, Mr. Josiah Green, presided over a good attendance. The annual report was presented and adopted, and a satisfactory balance of £129 4s. 4d. was shown in the financial statement. The following officers were elected for the current year: Hon. treasurer, Mr. J. K. Mills; hon. secretary, Mr. M. O. McAuliffe; auditors, Messrs. W. Parks and H. H. Gulley.

A dance was afterwards held in the dance hall. The business and social proceedings were carried through with efficiency and dispatch, which augers well for the forthcoming year, when a determined effort is to be made to increase the membership of the branch.

CENTRAL WARWICK

Mr. R. H. Wright, Town Clerk of Warwick, presided over the annual dinner of the County Warwick Branch, and among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Leamington, the Deputy Mayor of Warwick, Mr. Leo Rawlinson (Town Clerk of Leamington), Mr. D. H. Brown (County Surveyor), Mr. Sholto Douglas (Surveyor to the Kenilworth U.D.C.), and Miss Browning (hon. secretary of the Warwick County Officers' Guild).

DARLINGTON

In accordance with the sliding scale relating to the cost of living, a further cut was due in the salaries of the officers at Darlington. As a result of representations which have been made, the Council have agreed to suspend the cut pending a settlement of the salary question.

DORSET

The sixth annual dinner of the Dorset County Officials' branch of N.A.L.G.O., held at the Hotel Burdon, Weymouth, on Saturday evening, March 21, was invested with a presentation to the former branch hon. secretary, Mr. C. Stanley Johnson. For ten years he has been on the County Education office staff, and has now been appointed to the important position of Secretary of the County of Rutland Education Committee. Warm congratulations were extended to him at the function, and on behalf of the branch he was presented by the president, Mr. Arthur Lewis, Public Assistance Officer, with a handsome silver salver, suitably inscribed.

CONFERENCE NUMBER

The June issue, which will contain a full report of the Edinburgh Conference, will be published on Saturday, June 6.

Owing to pressure on our space, it has been impossible to include in this month's LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE *the Woman's Page, Crossword Puzzle, Book Reviews, and Movements of Members. The solution to the April Crossword Puzzle appears on page 151.*

DOVER

A new branch of N.A.L.G.O. was formed at Dover on March 1 with an initial membership of seventy. Thirty contributors to B. and O. Fund, four to the Provident Society, and one to the Approved Society have been registered. The hon. secretary is Mr. A. I. Hobbs, Brook House, Dover.

DURHAM

An application in respect of certain temporary clerks in relief offices to be placed on the permanent staff, to be designated under the Superannuation Scheme, has been made to the Public Assistance Committee of the Durham County Council.

FULHAM

The Fulham Branch held a dinner and dance at the Marble Arch Rooms on April 16, when the Mayor and Mayoress of Fulham attended as guests together with the Divisional Organising Secretary. Among others present were the Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer and Borough Surveyor. The branch is to be congratulated upon the success attending its first post-war dinner.

GATESHEAD

Certain proposals having been made with regard to a revision of the hours of the staff at the High Teams Institution at Gateshead, the Association was invited to express its views thereon. The D.O.S. met the Staffing Sub-Committee of the Public Assistance Committee, and on behalf of the members of the branch made certain recommendations. It is understood that the Committee have given instructions for a further scheme to be prepared, which it is hoped will prove satisfactory to our members.

HACKNEY

The Hackney Branch held its annual dinner on Saturday, March 28. The President, the Town Clerk, and the Mayor were present. Hackney is to be congratulated upon the arrangements made.

HARTLEPOOL

The D.O.S. has addressed a meeting of the Main Hartlepool Town Council, protesting against a recommendation of the General Purposes Committee to suspend the normal annual increments under the Grading Scheme. The result was a very satisfactory settlement of the interview inasmuch as the Council agreed to pay the full scale increments.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

The Hemel Hempstead Branch concluded a successful season by holding another soiree on April 15. A large company assembled at the Town Hall and a jolly time was spent until midnight. The president, Mr. A. Murray Smith, made an admirable M.C. The programme consisted of dancing, songs, dramatic sketches, and games, with an abundance of excellent refreshments.

HOLGATE INSTITUTION

A most successful dance was held at the Holgate Institution, Middlesbrough, on March 28 in aid of the B. and O. Fund. The whole of the expenses were defrayed by the president, Mr. H. Bilson, Clerk to the Middlesbrough R.D.C., whose generous action is appreciated.

L.C.C.

On March 31 the Head Offices Section of the L.C.C. Branch held a re-union dinner at the Florence Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus. Mr. Gordon Miles presided and an excellent entertainment was provided by the members and friends. The guests included Mr. G. T. Oldfield, M.P., L.C.C., Mr. R. G. Hembrow, Chairman of the L.C.C. Branch, and the Chief Organising Secretary and Divisional Organising Secretary of N.A.L.G.O.

LIVERPOOL

The annual dinner of the School Caretakers' Section of the N.A.L.G.O. was held on Saturday, March 14, at the Washington Hotel. Mr. T. Cooper, chairman, presided. Mr. H. Lowe proposed the toast of the Liverpool Education Committee, and Mr. J. Butterfield, in reply, pointed out that caretakers were at one time the worst paid of Corporation employees, but N.A.L.G.O. took up their case, and has been fairly successful in raising not only their wages, but their status.

MANSFIELD

Mr. A. C. Shepherd, who was recently appointed Town Clerk of Mansfield, attended his first public official function in Mansfield in presiding over the sixth annual dinner of the Mansfield Branch on March 25. Among those supporting Mr. Shepherd were Mr. Charles Brown, M.P. for Mansfield, the Mayor of Mansfield, and other members of the Town Council and the Mansfield Woodhouse Urban District Council.

The Town Clerk assured the branch that he was anxious to help N.A.L.G.O. in any way he could.

(Continued on page 142)

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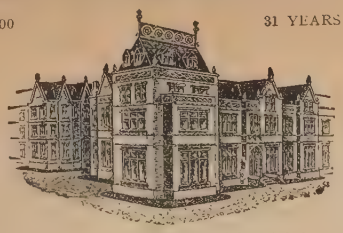

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BRANCH & DISTRICT NEWS

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

The annual reunion of the Metropolitan District Committee was held at the Queen's Hall on Friday, April 24. The event taking place after the going to press of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, a report will be published in the June issue.

MIDDLESBROUGH

In aid of the local Y.M.C.A., a whist drive was held by the Middlesbrough Branch in the Trocadera Cafe on March 31. The president, Mr. H. Bilson, and Mrs. Bilson gave their active support, and Mrs. Bilson presented the whist prizes. After the drive, dancing was indulged in. The social activities of the branch are being organised for the summer. Cricket and tennis sections have been formed. The football section has had a successful season.

NEWPORT, MON.

Major W. E. Lloyd, M.C., M.I.C.E., president of the branch, presided over the annual dinner at the King's Head Hotel, Newport, on March 18. The large company included the Mayor of Newport (Councillor T. Crowther, J.P.) and members of the Town Council. Proposing the toast of the branch, Alderman John Moxon, O.B.E., spoke in appreciation of the Association's ideals of service and efficiency. Mr. Norman T. J. Moses, Borough Treasurer, said to get the best out of local government there must be a real bond between the members of the Council and the officers.

There was a large attendance at the annual general meeting of the Newport (Mon.) Branch held at the Town Hall on March 20. Major W. E. Lloyd, M.Inst.C.E., M.C., Borough Engineer, was in the chair. The report of the Executive Committee was adopted and showed an increase in the membership of over thirty for the year. Mr. W. A. Gunn, Curator, Newport Museum and Art Gallery, was elected president for the ensuing year, and a fitting tribute was paid to the retiring president, Dr. H. R. Burpitt.

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT

A meeting of the North Western and North Wales District Committee was held on April 11. The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman G. F. Titt, officially welcomed the delegates. He congratulated N.A.L.G.O. on its strength and prestige and on its educational work, which benefited the community as well as the officer. Delegates' instructions with regard to Conference were thoroughly discussed and considered amendments formulated. Consideration of the Association's scales for transferred officers and conditions of service was referred to the Liaison Committee for consideration and report.

The quarterly meeting of the North Western and North Wales District was held at the Town Hall, Warrington, on Saturday, March 14. 150 delegates receiving an official welcome from the Mayor, Alderman D. Plinston, J.P. A resolution from the Yorkshire District Committee in connection with the principle of the appointment of a Standing Orders Committee to arrange the final agenda for the Annual Conference was referred to the General Purposes Committee. A motion by the Blackpool Branch to the effect that there should be a change in the date at which Conference is held was referred to the branches.

The third meeting of the Liaison Committee discussed the Draft of the National Scale of Salaries and Grading and the National Standard of Conditions of Service of Institutional Staffs. Where a local authority had instituted a weekly charge to cover accommodation of the children of senior residential officers in institutions, it was decided that a legal opinion should be obtained as to the rights of the officers.

NORTH WALES

A mass outing is being arranged for the North Wales branches for Saturday, June 6, the venue being Maentwrog (Merionethshire). The object of the outing is to welcome and encourage members from the N.P.L.O.A. It is proposed to call at Blaenau-Festiniog to view the slate quarries, and then to proceed to Maentwrog to view the reservoir, dams, electric light and power works of the North Wales Power Company. The venue for lunch, tea, etc., will be arranged by a committee consisting of one representative from each branch, with the chairman, vice-chairman, and the hon. district secretary of the North Wales District Sub-Committee.

Members who would like to participate in the outing, kindly communicate with their own branch secretary or with Mr. R. Hext, Council Offices, Colwyn Bay.

PADDINGTON

On March 13 the Paddington Branch organised a social evening in aid of the B. and O. Fund at the Town Hall, the Mayor, Alderman Leonard T. Snell, J.P., F.A.I., attending. Mrs. Snell presented the prizes awarded for the whist drive.

PONTEFRACT

An entertainment organised by Mr. J. W. Bland, of the Pontefract R.D. Council, and consisting of a whist drive and recital of gramophone records, was arranged by the Pontefract Branch on March 21. At the close of the evening a vote of thanks to Mr. Bland, responsible for the recital, was proposed by the president, Mr. P. Rothera.

PONTYPRIDD

A well-attended meeting of officers at the Central Homes, Pontypridd, on March 16, was addressed on the aims and achievements of N.A.L.G.O. by Mr. C. B. Bright, hon. secretary of the Glamorgan County Officers' Branch of N.A.L.G.O., and Mr. J. E. N. Davis, Divisional Organising Secretary of N.A.L.G.O. Special reference was made to the value of the County Council Joint Advisory Committee.

SOUTH SHIELDS

At a recent meeting of the Public Assistance Committee of the South Shields Corporation it was reported that a letter had been received from Nalgo stating that proceedings were being commenced on behalf of the officers at the Harton Institution for a declaration that the Corporation were not entitled to reduce the amount or value of their ration allowances. Councillor Pearson moved that the Council accede to the Association's request. Councillor McAnany, in seconding, expressed the opinion that litigation might cost the town £5,000 to £10,000—money thrown away, because they were fighting a losing cause. He thought the Council should give way and grant the claimants their due.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT

The Mayor of Llanelly, Alderman T. Hay Morgan, accompanied by Mr. H. W. Spowart, the Town Clerk, welcomed the delegates at the meeting of the South Wales District held at Llanelly on April 11. His Worship referred to the excellent way in which local government officers generally had taken up the additional responsibilities saddled upon them by recent legislation.

Consideration was given to the Conference agenda and annual report of the National Executive Council, and various recommendations to the delegates attending the annual Conference were agreed to. It was resolved to ask the N.E.C. to further pursue the matter of assisting branches to send representatives to the annual Conference.

STOKE-ON-TRENT

The statement of accounts of the New Year's Eve Dance for the B. and O. Fund show an expenditure of £84 and a profit of £204. Well done, Stoke!

STRETFORD

[illegible] held at Longford Hall, Longford [illegible], March 14, as a result of which it is expected to hand about £8 to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund of the Association. About 160 people were present, Mr. E. R. Ellerton and J. Young (hon. secretary) acting as stewards.

TODMORDEN

At the [illegible] Town Council, a deputation of the local branch, accompanied by the D.O.S., attended before the Salaries Committee to discuss matters [illegible]

TYNEMOUTH

The popularity of the dances organised for the staffs of the Local Government Offices, North Shields, was evidenced recently when 150 people pronounced the dance held there as one of the best of the dancing season. The function took the form of a double whist drive and dance. The M.C.'s for the whist were Messrs. Hughes and Nesworthy, and for the dance Messrs. T. Mackenzie and H. Daglish. A balance of £3 6s. 5d. will be forwarded to headquarters for the B. and O. Fund.

WALLSEND

A successful social evening was held by the Wallsend Branch on April 10, about 140 members and friends attending a whist drive, supper and dance at The Hall, The Green, Wallsend. The function, patronised by the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. Hugh Duffy, was arranged in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. Mr. R. H. Storer, secretary, and Mr. J. Gray, secretary of the Social Committee, carried out the arrangements.

WALSALL

The branch held its first dinner at the Stork Hotel on March 31. The Medical Officer of Health (Dr. J. A. M. Clark), president of the branch, occupied the chair. The guests included the Mayor and Mayoress, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. J. J. McShane, M.P. and Councillor Mrs. McShane, Dr. A. Wotherspoon, N.E.C. (Medical Officer of Health of Stoke-on-Trent), Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary of N.A.L.G.O., Mr. H. Ralph, Borough Treasurer, and Mr. C. S. Fothergill, Public Assistance Officer. Mr. Hill claimed that in the public service they were getting just as much initiative as in commerce. It was a fallacy, he argued, to assume that monetary rewards were the only incentive to achievement, for those engaged in the public service had the welfare of the community in their keeping.

WALTHAMSTOW

The Walthamstow Council has had under consideration letters from the National Union of Clerks and from N.A.L.G.O. asking for a suspension of the reduction of the bonus due to take effect at March 1, 1931, due to the fall in the cost-of-living index figure. It was resolved that the reduction in bonus be put into effect, provided it shall not operate in connection with the wages of employees receiving £4 a week or less, nor reduce the wages of any employee below £4.

WANDSWORTH

On Thursday, March 19, the Wandsworth Branch held its annual dinner at Clapham Junction, when the Mayor was the guest of the evening. Both the dinner and the entertainment which followed were well attended.

WEST BROMWICH

Mr. G. E. Crews, Master of the Institution, presided over a propaganda meeting at Hallam House on March 19. Mr. J. R. Harrison, president; Mr. W. E. Veasey, Borough Treasurer; and Mr. C. R. Hares, hon. secretary, attended and an address on the work of the association was given by Mr. J. E. N. Davis, the Divisional Organising Secretary.

WEST HARTLEPOOL

A recommendation proposing the suspension of increments due under the Council's Grading Scheme was submitted by the General Purposes Committee at a meeting of the West Hartlepool County Borough Council. Mr. J. B. Swindon, Divisional Organising Secretary, secured an interview and as a result the council decided to grant the increments in accordance with the grading scheme.

(Continued on page 148)

OFFICIAL TOURS

MELROSE TOUR

GOOD literature is international in its appeal and Sir Walter Scott has many admirers on both sides of the Border. The countryside visited on this tour is noted for its association with this famous son of Edinburgh as well as for its natural beauties. No admirer of Sir Walter's works should miss this opportunity of seeing the places he loved so well that he made his residence and last resting place in this district. The route proceeds via the mining suburb of Gilmerton to Eskbank, the residential portion of the Burgh of Dalkeith. Striking the Gala Water, after leaving Middleton Moor, the road follows via Stow to Galashiels, where it meets the famous Tweed. Abbotsford, the famous residence of Sir Walter Scott and resort of his admirers, is passed on the left shortly before reaching the dignified abbey town of Melrose, where a halt will be made for lunch. The heart of "Robert the Bruce" is reputed to be buried here. The resumed journey has Dryburgh Abbey as its next objective and here the mortal remains of Sir Walter lie close beside those of Field-Marshal Earl Haig, making it the end of many a pilgrimage. The homeward run is up the Leader Valley via Earlston and the ancient Burgh of Lauder.

TWEED VALLEY TOUR

Less famous, but no whit less lovely than the preceding tour, is the visit to the higher reaches of the Tweed. Leaving the city by Liberton, an early glimpse may be had of a typical border Peel tower, known as Liberton Tower, now a farmhouse. Roslin and the wooded valley of the Esk lie to the left of the route, and close at hand is Glencorse Barracks, the depot of the Royal Scots. On the right are the Pentland Hills stretching away to the south-west, while to the left are the Lammermuirs, the nearer range on this side being the Moorfoot Hills. Leaving Penicuik, the road crosses the Auchencorth Moss, a favourite nesting place of black-headed gulls, snipe, curlews, and other similar birds.

LINLITHGOW PALACE TOUR

Leaving the city by Queensferry Street, this route crosses the Dean Bridge, where the mausoleum-like St. Bernard's Well may be seen far below in the valley, before turning into one of the finest stretches of road in the country, the Queensferry Road. The road now becomes more winding and undulating as the route proceeds, the policies of Dalmeny House, Lord Rosebery's Scottish seat, with clumps of rhododendron bushes, on the right helping to make a most pleasant route. Descending the Hawes Brae, the road passes under the approach arches of that engineering masterpiece the Forth Bridge, beneath whose mighty spans the battered battle-cruiser squadron limped home after Jutland to be patched up. Rosyth Dockyard is seen across the river in a north-westerly direction, while just beyond South Queensferry, with its old-fashioned narrow streets, is Port Edgar, the war-time base of destroyers and submarines. Before Linlithgow is reached a visit is made to Torphichen Preceptory, ancient home of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem. Linlithgow Palace, now in ruins, charmingly situated on the shore of the Loch, is famous as a residence of the Stuart kings and as the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots.

LOCH LOMOND AND ABELFOYLE TOUR

This tour is also connected with Sir Walter Scott and visits one of his favourite early haunts. Balloch is the destination for lunch. Resuming the tour via Drymen and Buchanan Castle, a residence of the Duke of Montrose, Flanders Moss, Aberfoyle and Trossachs, the homeward journey passes the lake of Monteith with its island castle and Priory of Inchmahome.

These notes do not attempt to describe everything worth seeing, but it is hoped that they may assist delegates in their choice of excursions.

WANDERER.

READER'S NOTES

By JACOB TONSON

I HAVE been asked *Why Jacob Tonson?* Because besides being bookseller and publisher, he was a patron of literature and the associate of many literary men of his day—Steele, Addison and other members of the Kit-Cat club. The club frequently met at his house, where a special room was built to accommodate the members and where views on books were exchanged. Whether the club got its name from the landlord of the inn where they met originally, "The Cat and Fiddle," or from the pies for which the inn was famous, is open to argument. The curious may pursue the subject in *Shadows of Old Booksellers.*

* * *

Those who do not mind unvarnished phraseology will find *Horizon*, by Ken Attiwill (Cape, 7s. 6d.), entertaining. It is a graphic description by an Australian journalist of a voyage in a British-built, but Finnish-owned, four-masted barque. The picture of life on board—the men's life, not the officers'—is vivid and illustrates profoundly that "sailors don't care." The windjammer's career for three and a half months in every kind of weather is related—the mate's treatment of the men, as unsavoury as their food and quarters. There are clever character portrayals in this picturesque description of life at sea as rough as the weather encountered.

* * *

Albert Grope : the Story of a Belated Victorian by F. O. Mann (Faber & Faber, 10s. 6d.), deals with the emancipation of an ill-educated, highly sensitive youth in the '90's. Left friendless on the death of his mother, his retiring disposition is a serious handicap in social advancement. Leaving school at the early age of twelve years to help the family exchequer—till then entirely dependent upon his mother's earnings as a charwoman—his commercial progress is steady and certain, but his first love affair, his religious endeavours at the Chapel of Ancient Truth (where truth was of so ancient a character as to be lost to view) run by hypocrites of the Stiggins order, and his introduction through Lady Gollaby to the social amenities of the Fiddler's Hill Literary Society, are fraught with bitter disillusionment. Though there are many quaint characters in the book it is much more than a character study. It is a work of art such as those who, like myself, spend much time evaluating current literature in fiction form, delight to find. You will meet Mr. Blowberry whose obsession for "art," and neglect of his second-hand book business gave Grope his chance in answer to the notice "Wanted!! Intelligent Boy for this Shop. No Idiot need Apply!!" the drunken artist Phoenix, whose hand was against every man's, particularly the helping one; Proger, the "man about town," and the doyens of the Literary Society redeemed from fatuousness by the charming Mrs. Taube, who brings happiness to the hero.

* * *

There are scores of readable books on hunting big game, but *Bring 'Em Back Alive*, by Frank Buck and Edward Anthony (Gollancz, 16s.), illustrates the exceptional difficulties of securing living specimens. With a powerful rifle and the mere intent to kill, hunting is comparatively simple. But capturing savage beasts and dangerous reptiles alive requires a great deal more than the means to kill; it needs tact, enterprise, skill and a knowledge of animal life and psychology. For over eighteen years Mr. Buck has been on the track of specimens for the principal zoos in the United States.

* * *

Among other interesting books of the Spring publishing season are: W. G. Carr's *By Guess and by God* (Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.), recounting the exploits of British submarines in the Great War; *Across Africa on Foot* (E. Mathews and Marrot, 18s.), in which R. A. Monson records his experiences during his tramp of seven thousand six hundred miles from the Cape to Cairo, a unique effort, and the story of the Chicago gangster—F. D. Pasley's *Life of Al Capone* (Faber & Faber, 7s. 6d.), which has excitement enough to satisfy the insatiable.

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BRIGHTON.—Beacon Royal Private Hotel, Oriental Place. Between West Pier and lawns. Dancing, billiards, young society. Gas fires in bedrooms. Excellent cuisine. Moderate terms. Well recommended by Civil Servants. Proprietress, Mrs. B. L. Stewart. Brighton 5680.

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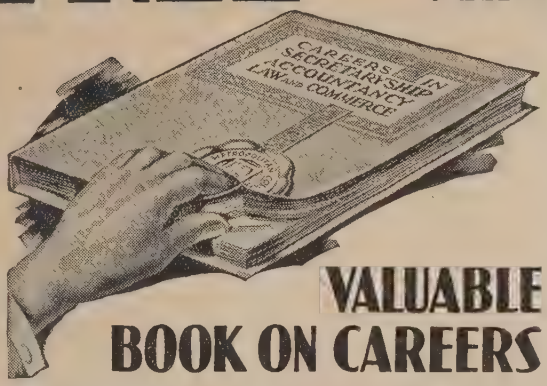

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GARDENING NOTES

By WALTER P. WRIGHT.

ONE need make no apology for devoting space this month to producing beautiful flower gardens, at as small a cost as is compatible with good results. That is a matter which is on all our minds just now. From what one reads, one might suppose that beautiful gardens are impossible without rockeries, herbaceous borders, and banks of shrubs. I admire alpines as much as anybody, but I think rockeries are gravely overdone in many gardens; and I apply the same remarks to herbaceous perennials and borders. Wonders can be done with annuals, especially if one includes with them, as is quite legitimate, such biennials and perennials as can be cultivated as annuals—salvias, antirrhinums, geums, dahlias, petunias and verbenas, for example. Raising such plants from seed every year (supplementing with purchases of seedlings at will) is full of interest, and the plants can be scrapped in autumn. I have carried out very successful flower gardening in this way.

* * *

I agree that to get the best results one should have glass, principally in the form of a frame and cloches. A heated greenhouse is undeniably helpful, too. But where expense has to be kept down one can always restrict oneself to raising only the least tender things at home, those which need to be started in winter with heat to get early summer bloom, such as salvias, Coltness dahlias, geums, antirrhinums, lobelias, heliotrope, and verbenas, also very tender annuals like zinnias, being, at will, bought at a florist's as seedlings and grown on in frames or under cloches. See remarks in April issue. With forethought and scheming an excellent stock of plants can be obtained at very little cost and the expense of a flower garden becomes quite moderate.

* * *

Many seedlings could be put out early in May in mild districts if nothing else blocked the way, but there may be Darwin and Cottage tulips to consider. Well, the tulips are worth the delay ten times over; and, always provided the number of seedlings per box is kept down as I advised last month, and they receive plenty of air, they will be all right till the middle or end of May, earlier or later according to the district. If frame room is limited a row of seed boxes can be set in a sheltered place and covered with cloches. I always strew leafmould on the bottom of my seedling boxes, because when the time comes for planting out one can cut out chunks of soil and roots in masses, and with due moisture the plants grow away without the least check.

* * *

I am not forgetting hardy annuals. The older I get the later I sow in spring. I believe that half the complaints seedsmen get of bad seeds (and the poor creatures get a lot) are due to sowing too early. The seed is all right, but the soil is too cold. I don't think I shall ever again sow hardy annuals outside before May, unless I get into a very favoured clime.

* * *

In sowing and planting, aim at harmonious blends of colour. In a clump of sweet peas associate, for example, lavender, cream and pink; the effect is lovely. Or put orange and cream together, with or without a mauve. Rose-pink and picotee-edge look charming, the more so with a lavender or mauve addition. Never sow or plant a row of sweet peas without harmonizing the colours; rather have the row consist of a series of colour-blends in blocks.

Apart from sweet peas, I have two fresh schemes in mind for the present year. One I saw recommended [illegible] it is to associate in a two the beautiful annual delphinium "Blue Butterfly" with a yellow viola. I am choosing "Bullion" for the viola; it is very old, but still one of the best for profusion, lasting, and solid colour. I propose to set a graceful grassy plant in the bed at intervals, and it will probably be eulalia japonica zebrina.

* * *

The other [illegible] yellow-orange salmon-sulphur blend [illegible] I am preparing by [illegible] "Salmon Queen" [illegible] "Yellow Queen" and "Orange Queen," orange and [illegible]. Among other [illegible] "Orange King" [illegible] "Lady" and "Sunproof" genera "Lady Sunproof," gaillardia "Lady Roleston," antirrhinum "Prima Donna" and "Bonfire," etc. I do not say that all of these will go into one border or bed, but most of them will, spaced in clumps. I expect to sow clarkias of the "Firefly" or near shade among them; also godetia "Lavender" (this beautiful plant is worth sowing in a box in February to get early bloom) and mixed viscarias to give suitable blends.

* * *

For smaller beds, or border patches, think of nemesias; they are lovely. For a blaze, use a scarlet salvia, such as "Pride of Zurich" or "Harbinger." Mixed verbenas make charming beds. Verbena venosa is a distinct plant with purple flowers and tinted stems, keeps in bloom for a long time, and is nearly hardy. Seedlings are available in nurseries.

* * *

In these days of compact dwelling-houses with limited appurtenances, collapsible appliances have a special interest. Make a note, therefore, of collapsible frames (Cabinet Works, 3 Portland Road, Hythe, Kent), and collapsible cloches (Chase Protected Cultivation, Ltd., Pound Pond, Chertsey, Surrey), and consider their appeal. I use both and may have room for some remarks about them presently, meantime I call attention to them because not only are they useful, but after a season's service they can be stored in small compass if desired.

* * *

Ants are sometimes a pest in gardens. A mixture of sugar and powdered borax in equal parts sprinkled about their nests reduces their numbers.

* * *

A very useful insecticide can be made by mixing ½ lb. soft soap and ½ pint paraffin oil with 1 quart of very hot water. Stir up well, then dilute with 10 gallons of water and churn up with a syringe. Use hot, but not near boiling point.

* * *

One of the best grasses for a shady place is the Wood Meadow Grass (Poa nemoralis). This should be used when portions of lawn have to be made in shady places.

* * *

Six-inch by 1-inch deal, creosoted, makes a useful and cheap edging for garden beds and borders. The cost is about 12s. per 100 feet run.

* * *

Brief Mems: Vegetables—Sow dwarf French and runner beans, beet, late peas, and late greens. Stake early peas. Thin crops. Plant box onions. Plant early celery in mild districts. Fork between young potatoes and earth lightly at 9 in. high. Train frame and house cucumbers. Sow lettuces. Cut asparagus as ready. Attack slugs. Plant tomatoes and marrows towards the end of the month in mild places.

Brief Mems: Flowers—sow hardy annuals. Plant half-hardy kinds towards the end of the month in mild districts. Ventilate frames and greenhouses. Fumigate or vaporise once a month. Prepare shading. Examine curled rose leaves for maggot. Disbud sweet peas to one shoot each for prize flowers on the cordon system, but train three shoots for general purposes. Begin staking and tying tall herbaceous plants. Plant gladioli. Prepare window boxes. Syringe room plants now and then. Repot ferns and aspidistras. Plant chrysanthemums for the garden and shift pot plants as needed. Plant water lilies and hardy ferns. Plant flowered bulbs, polyanthuses and primroses in reserve plots. Order seeds of biennials, such as wallflowers, sweet williams and Canterbury bells. Plant carnations. Pot young cyclamens.

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AUCTION BRIDGE

By NEVILLE HOBSON

AS stated in the concluding paragraph of the April article, I intended to consider in this issue the principles of bidding and the incidental general rules which have now been accepted in the leading clubs in England and America. In view, however, of the success of the last competition and the request of some of the competitors that another should be organised at an early date, the Editor has agreed to offer four more prizes, and eight questions on bidding will be found below.

On this occasion, I have endeavoured to make the problems indicative of some of the most important general rules, and the correct answers will be explained and analysed in future issues in the hope that the reasons underlying the main principles will be more easily understood and appreciated. It should be noted that the answers are to be sent to the Editor, and must be received at the prescribed address not later than noon on Tuesday, May 12, 1931, and the previous system as regards the nomenclature of South, West, North and East will be adopted. It will be assumed that S. is sitting at the nearest point of the table, with N. as his partner on the far side (W. being on the left of S. and E. on his right).

The suits in this and all future competitions and problems will be shown in the sequence: (1) Spades, (2) Hearts, (3) Diamonds, (4) Clubs, so as to follow the order of their trick values.

COMPETITION

In all the eight questions the score will be assumed to be Game All. In the case of the first six problems the Deal has been made by South, and competitors will state what he should say on each respective hand as first declarer.

1-6 :—What is the correct declaration of South as dealer on each of the first six hands :—

1. S. A, x, x. H. x, x, x, x. D. J, x. C. A, x, x, x.
2. S. A, x, x, x. H. A, x, x. D. J, x. C. x, x, x, x.
3. S. A, K, x, x, x. H. J, x. D. x, x. C. x, x, x, x.
4. S. x, x, x. H. A, x, x. D. A, x, x. C. K, Q, x, x.
5. S. x, x. H. K, Q, J, x, x, x. D. A, x. C. Q, x, x.
6. S. A, Q, x, x, x. H. A, K, x, x, x. D. A, x. C. Q, x, x.
7. In this case, S. dealt, and bid 1 No Trump. What should W. say as second hand, when holding :—
   S. Q, x. H. x, x, x. D. A, K, Q, x, x. C. K, Q, x.
8. In this case S. had also bid 1 No Trump as dealer. What should W. say, holding :—
   S. K, Q, x. H. A, K, Q, x, x. D. x, x, x. C. Q, x.

CONDITIONS

1. Entries should be addressed as follows: The Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, 3 and 4 Clements Inn, London, W.C.2.
2. Envelopes should be marked "Bridge" on the top left-hand corner, and must reach the Editor not later than 12 noon on Tuesday, May 12.
3. All signatures and addresses should be in block letters.
4. A copy of "The Play of the Cards," by Messrs. Frank England and Hope Reford, will be awarded to the winner; and there will be three additional prizes, consisting of two packs of "New Era" (concave) playing cards.
5. In the event of a tie, the prizes will be awarded to the entries received first.
6. Entries can only be accepted on the distinct understanding that (*a*) the decision of Mr. Neville Hobson, or any other Judge appointed by the Editor or himself, shall be regarded as absolutely final on all matters; (*b*) no claim shall be made by or correspondence entered into as regards the awards with any competitor.
7. The answers and results will be announced in the June issue of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

BRANCH NEWS

(*Continued from page 142*)

WEST MIDDLESEX

Recognition was given to the work of N.A.L.G.O. by the leader writer in the *Middlesex Advertiser and County Gazette*. Referring to the first dinner of the branch, held at Harrow on March 7, the writer says: "From our own knowledge, few professional organisations have grown so rapidly as this one in both numbers and achievement of aims; and, more important still from the public point of view, no other grade of public or private worker has become so improved in status and training, while at the same time benefiting the public service as well as themselves. This is a supremely important and significant factor in the strength and purity of British public life and service, and makes all the difference between the efficiency and probity of our services and the graft and uncertainty that seems to exist in the same grades in America. We ought, therefore, to be proud of our very efficient and painstaking municipal servants."

WIMBLEDON

The branch annual dinner was held on Friday, March 20, about 160 members and friends being present. On March 21 about forty members of the Wimbledon and Merton Branch were conducted over the Houses of Parliament by Mr. J. Chute Ede, M.P. Mr. Ede's knowledge of the historical facts in connection with the House is probably unique and ensured a pleasant afternoon. After tea in town the party returned to Wimbledon satisfied that the afternoon had been profitably and happily spent.

WORCESTER

On Thursday, March 26, a whist drive took place in the Oak Room at the Guildhall, Worcester, about thirty members attending. Refreshments were served during the interval. The arrangements for the evening were made by Mr. V. J. Bevan, hon. social secretary, and the Social Committee.

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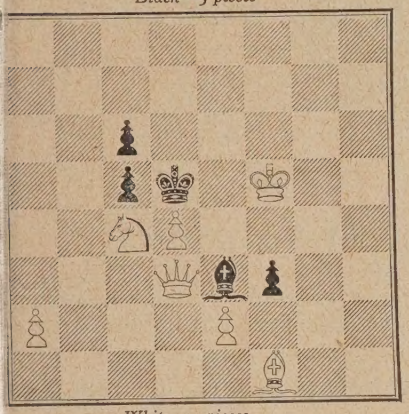
THE GAME OF CHESS

By ANSELMO LOPEZ

"The game of chess was a great favourite with our ancestors, and we gain some idea of the high esteem in which it was held from the fact that no fewer than twenty-six English families have emblazoned chess boards and chess rooks in their arms."—CHARLES TOMLINSON.

PROBLEM No. 5 (by A. F. Mackenzie)

Black—5 pieces

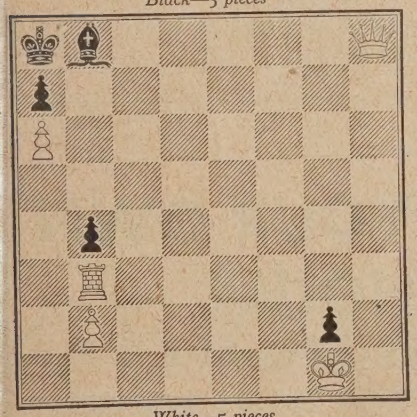


White—7 pieces

White to move and mate in two moves

PROBLEM No. 5a (by P. Daley)

Black—5 pieces



White—5 pieces

White to move and mate in three moves

SPORTING STOCK EXCHANGE EVENT

An interesting event, with quite a sporting character, was held in London on April 11, when a team from the Amsterdam Stock Exchange played a London Stock Exchange team. The Dutchmen won in the first round by 5½ games to 4½, and in the second round by 6 games to 4. The match, which was the suggestion originally of the Amsterdam Stock Exchange, has been so great a success from the social as well as the chess point of view that it is to be an annual affair henceforth—the venue to be Amsterdam and London alternately. Here is one of the best games of the occasion, played on board 4:

Q Gambit Declined.

	WHITE DEKKER Amsterdam	BLACK EDMUNDS London
1.	P—Q4	P—Q4
2.	P—QB4	P—K3
3.	Kt—QB3	Kt—KB3
4.	B—Kt5	QKt—Q2
5.	Kt—B3	P—B3
6.	P—K3	B—K2
7.	R—B1	Castles
8.	Q—B2	R—K1
9.	B—Q3	P×P
10.	B×BP	Kt—Q4
11.	B×B	Q×B
12.	P—QR3	Kt×Kt
13.	Q×Kt	Kt—B3
14.	Castles	P—KR3
15.	Kt—K5	Kt—Q4
16.	Q—Q3	Kt—B3
17.	B—R2	Kt—Q2
18.	P—B4	Kt×Kt
19.	BP×Kt	B—Q2
20.	B—Kt1	P—KKt3
21.	R—B6	R—KB1
22.	P—KR4	P—KR4
23.	P—KKt4!	P×P
24.	P—R5	K—Kt2
25.	P×P	Q—Q1
26.	P×P	R—R1
27.	P=Q ch	Resigns

BONAR LAW CUP

The late Mr. Bonar Law, a former Prime Minister, was a devotee of the Royal Game, and the donor of a Cup for competition in the various chess teams of the Civil Service. It was this year won by the Board of Education, who defeated Patent Office by 6½ games to 3½. E. T. Jesty and B. H. Stronach (who played on boards one and two for the Board against E. G. Sergeant and D. Miller) were the finalists in the Individual Championship contest, which was eventually won by Mr. Stronach.

BRIEF BRILLIANCIES, No. 5

Three Knights Game.

WHITE	BLACK
1. P—K4	P—K4
2. Kt—KB3	Kt—QB3
3. Kt—B3	P—B4
4. P—Q4	P×KP
5. Kt×KP	Kt—B3
6. B—B4	P—Q4
7. Kt×QP	Kt×Kt
8. Q—R5 ch	P—Kt3
9. Kt×P	P×Kt
10. Q×P ch	K—K2
11. B×Kt	Q—K sq
12. B—B7	Q—K2
13. B—Kt5	Resigns

Won by the celebrated Breyer, in an International tournament.

END GAME: No. 5

White (3 pieces)—K on QR5, B on QB sq, P on QB7.

Black (5 pieces)—K on KR sq, B on KB4, Pawns on KKt7, Q5 and QR3.

White to play and draw.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. 5 (2-mover by A. F. Mackenzie).

Key, Q—R3.

If 1, K x Kt; 2, Q x P mate. If 1, K x P; 2, Q—Q3 mate. If 1, B x P; 2, P—K4 mate. If 1, P x P; 2, Kt—Kt6 mate.

Comment.—A fine key, Q retiring from a strong to an apparently weak position and sacrificing her Knight, too.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. 5a (3-mover by P. Dale).

Key, R—KR3.

1, P—Kt6; 2, R—R sq, P x R (Q) ch; 3, Q x Q mate.

Comment.—A stalemate position handled in a delightfully surprising manner.

SOLUTION TO END GAME No. 5

	WHITE	BLACK
	1. B—Kt2	P—Kt8 Q
	2. B×P ch	Q×B
	3. P—B8 Q ch	B×Q stalemate
If	1. ———	P—Kt8 (B)
	2. K×P	K—Kt sq
	3. B×P	B×B
	4. K—Kt7, forcing draw	

In these Chess Notes last month the present holders of the Pullinger Chess Cup were given as Kensington. The Southwark Branch are the present holders, and are again in the final this year.

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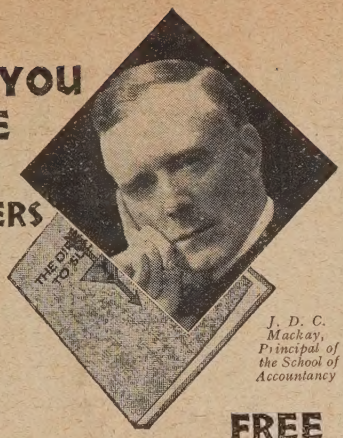

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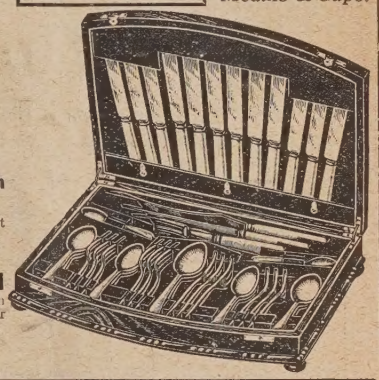

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